

## 16. Death - Termination of the Test Period of Human Robot

Death in the life of human beings on this Earth is ordained to terminate the divine test. It marks the end of one's test life.

الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا ۗ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْعَفُورُ

67:2 (He) who created death and life to test which of you is best in deed. And He is the Mighty, Oft-Forgiving.

Allah has fixed lifespan for each individual. This means one's period of testing is pre-determined by Allah.

هُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ طِينٍ ثُمَّ قَضَىٰ أَجَلًا ۗ وَأَجَلٌ مُّسَمًّىٰ عِنْدَهُ ۗ ثُمَّ أَنْتُمْ تَمْتَرُونَ

6:2 It is He Who created you from clay and then decreed a term (for you). And there is with Him another pre-determined term; yet you doubt!

وَيَوْمَ يَحْشُرُهُمْ جَمِيعًا يَا مَعْشَرَ الْجِنِّ قَدِ اسْتَكْبَرْتُمْ مِنَ الْإِنسِ ۗ وَقَالَ أَوْلِيَاؤُهُمْ مِنَ الْإِنسِ رَبَّنَا اسْتَمْتَعَ بَعْضُنَا بِبَعْضٍ وَبَلَّغْنَا أَجَلَنَا الَّذِي أَجَلْتَنَا لَنَا ۗ قَالَ النَّارُ مُثْوَاكُمْ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا إِلَّا مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ ۗ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ حَكِيمٌ عَلِيمٌ

6:128 The Day He gathers them (humans and *jinn*s) all together (and say): “O assembly of *jinn*s! You have (misled) many of the human beings.” The (*jinn*'s) friends among human beings will say: “Our Lord! We took advantage with each other and we have reached the end of our term assigned for us by You.” Allah will say: “The Fire is your dwelling place. You (all) except whom Allah wishes will dwell therein for ever.” Verily your Lord is Wise, Omniscient.

هُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نُّرَابٍ ثُمَّ مِنْ نُطْفَةٍ ثُمَّ مِنْ عَلَقَةٍ ثُمَّ يُخْرِجُكُمْ طِفْلًا ۗ ثُمَّ لِتَبْلُغُوا أَشُدَّكُمْ ثُمَّ لِتَكُونُوا شُيُوخًا ۗ وَمِنْكُمْ مَن يَتُوفَىٰ مِنْ قَبْلِ ۗ وَلِتُبْلُغُوا أَجَلًا مُّسَمًّىٰ ۗ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ

40:67 It is He who created you from dust, then from a sperm-drop, then from a leech-like clot. Then He brings you out (from the womb) as a baby, then you (grow) to attain your full development and then you become old – (although there are) some among you who die earlier – and to reach a pre-determined term and that you may think (and understand).

وَلَنْ يُؤَخَّرَ اللَّهُ نَفْسًا إِذَا جَاءَ أَجَلُهَا ۗ وَاللَّهُ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ

63:11 But Allah does not grant respite to any soul when (the end of) its term is reached. And Allah knows well (all) that you do.

Since lifespan has already been fixed by Allah, death becomes a programmed phenomenon. It is pre-determined in the biosoftware of the individual (Q. 3:145; 4:78).

وَمَا كَانَ لِنَفْسٍ أَنْ تَمُوتَ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ كِتَابًا مُّوجَلًّا ۗ وَمَنْ يُرِدْ تَوَابَ الدُّنْيَا نُؤْتِهِ مِنْهَا ۗ وَمَنْ يُرِدْ تَوَابَ الْآخِرَةِ نُؤْتِهِ مِنْهَا ۗ وَسَخَّرْنَا لِرِيبِ الشَّاكِرِينَ

3:145 None can die without Allah's consent, the term being fixed as by writing. Whoever desires the reward of this world, We will give it to him; and whoever desires the reward of the Hereafter, We will give that to him. And We will reward the grateful.

أَيُّمَا تَكُونُوا يُدْرِكْكُمُ الْمَوْتُ وَلَوْ كُنْتُمْ فِي بُرُوجٍ مُّشِيدَةٍ ۗ وَإِنْ تُصِيبْهُمْ حَسَنَةٌ يَقُولُوا هَذِهِ مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ وَإِنْ تُصِيبْهُمْ سَيِّئَةٌ يَقُولُوا هَذِهِ مِنْ عِنْدِكَ ۗ قُلْ كُلٌّ مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ ۗ فَمَالِ هَؤُلَاءِ الْقَوْمِ لَا يَكَادُونَ يَفْقَهُونَ حَدِيثًا

4:78 Wherever you are, death will find you out, even if you are in forts built strong and high! If some good befalls them, they will say, “This is from Allah”. But if some bad happens to them, they will say, “This is from you (i.e., Prophet Muhammad)”. Say: “All things are from Allah.” What happened to these people? They do not understand a thing!

Death of a person in the normal course occurs when the END instruction in his biomemome (*nafs*) is reached. Deletion of the biomemome from the body cells takes place then (Q. 6:93). The software is no longer present in the body and the body loses all its life properties. Death thus terminates one's test life on Earth.

وَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنِ افْتَرَىٰ عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا أَوْ قَالَ أُوحِيَ إِلَيَّ وَلَمْ يُوحَ إِلَيْهِ شَيْءٌ وَمَنْ قَالَ سَأُنزِلُ مِثْلَ مَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ وَلَوْ تَرَىٰ إِذِ الظَّالِمُونَ فِي غَمَرَاتِ الْمَوْتِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ بَاسِطُو أَيْدِيهِمْ أَخْرَجُوا أَنفُسَكُمْ ۗ الْيَوْمَ تُجْزَوْنَ عَذَابَ الْهُونِ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَقُولُونَ عَلَى اللَّهِ غَيْرَ الْحَقِّ وَكُنْتُمْ عَنْ آيَاتِهِ تَسْتَكْبِرُونَ

6:93 Who is more wicked than the one who fabricates lie about Allah or (who) says, “I have received message (i.e., *wahy* from Allah)” when he has received nothing or who says, “I can reveal the like of what Allah has sent down (i.e., the Quran)”? If you could see the wicked in their panicky state at death when the angels stretch forth their hands (saying), “Release your souls (*anfusus*). On the Day (the Day of Judgement) you will be rewarded the shameful penalty because you were telling untruth about Allah and you were arrogant towards His revelation (the Quran).”

وَهُوَ الْقَاهِرُ فَوْقَ عِبَادِهِ ۗ وَيُرْسِلُ عَلَيْكُمْ حَفَظَةً حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءَ أَحَدَكُمْ الْمَوْتُ تَوَفَّتْهُ رُسُلُنَا وَهُمْ لَا يُفِرُّونَ

6:61 He is the Supreme Authority over His servants and He sends sentinels (to watch) over you. And when death approaches one of you, Our messengers (angels) takes him (his soul) and they never fail in their duty.

قُلْ يَتَوَفَّاكُم مَّلَكُ الْمَوْتِ الَّذِي وُكِّلَ بِكُمْ ثُمَّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكُمْ تُرْجَعُونَ

32:11 Say: The angel of death put in charge of you will take your (soul at death); then you will be brought back to your Lord.

اللَّهُ يَتَوَفَّى الْأَنفُسَ حِينَ مَوْتِهَا وَالَّتِي لَمْ تَمُتْ فِي مَنَامِهَا ۗ فَيُمْسِكُ الَّتِي قَضَىٰ عَلَيْهَا الْمَوْتَ وَيُرْسِلُ الْأُخْرَىٰ إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى ۗ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

39:42 Allah takes the souls at the time of death; and those who did not die (He takes) during their sleep. Those on whom He has passed the decree of death, He retains (the soul), but the rest He sends (back to their bodies) for a term appointed. Verily in that are signs for people who think.

وَهُوَ الَّذِي يَتَوَفَّاكُم بِاللَّيْلِ وَيَعْلَمُ مَا جَرَحْتُم بِالنَّهَارِ ۗ ثُمَّ يَبْعَثُكُمْ فِيهِ لِيُقْضَىٰ أَجَلٌ مُّسَمًّى ۗ ثُمَّ إِلَيْهِ مَرْجِعُكُمْ ثُمَّ يُنَبِّئُكُمْ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ

6:60 It is He who takes your (soul) in the night and He knows what you do in the day. Then He wakes you up in it (i.e., in the day) until you complete a prescribed term (i.e., one's life span). Thereafter it is to Him you will return; then He will inform you what you had been doing (in this life).

Verses 39:42 and 6:60 also mention about taking *nafs* (biosoftware) of a person during sleep. However, the verses also subsequently state that the *nafs* is retained in the body after sleep till the expiry of lifespan. ‘Taking *nafs* during sleep’ is not everyday affair. Therefore the verses effectively convey that the *nafs* of those whose lifespan is over during the sleep will only be deleted from the body. The others will have their *nafs* intact in the body till the end of their term.

Death is a certainty (Q. 21:35); none can escape it. However, Allah may extend or shorten the lifespan of a person as He wills (Q. 35:11). Suicide committed by any has to be treated as an act of his own will as can be inferred from Allah's instruction not to take one's life (Q. 6:151). It is not a pre-determined act.

كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ ۗ وَنَبْلُوكُم بِالشَّرِّ وَالْخَيْرِ فِتْنَةً ۗ وَإِلَيْنَا تُرْجَعُونَ

21:35 Everyone will taste death. We test you by evil and by good as a trial and you will be brought back to Us.

وَاللَّهُ خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ تُرَابٍ ثُمَّ مِنْ نُطْفَةٍ ثُمَّ جَعَلَكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا ۗ وَمَا تَحْمِلُ مِنْ أُنْثَىٰ وَلَا تَضَعُ إِلَّا بِعِلْمِهِ ۗ وَمَا يُعَمَّرُ مِنْ مُعَمَّرٍ وَلَا يُنْقَصُ مِنْ عُمُرِهِ إِلَّا فِي كِتَابٍ ۗ إِنَّ ذَلِكَ عَلَى اللَّهِ يَسِيرٌ

35:11 And Allah created you from dust; then from a sperm-drop; then He made you mates. And no female conceives or delivers without His knowledge. No man is granted extension of life nor is his lifespan shortened except in accordance with (what is given) in a Record. All that is easy for Allah.

فَلْيَتَعَالُوا أَتْلُ مَا حَرَّمَ رَبُّكُمْ عَلَيْكُمْ ۗ أَلَّا تُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا ۗ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا ۗ وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَوْلَادَكُمْ مِنْ إِمْلَاقٍ ۗ نَحْنُ نَرْزُقُكُمْ وَإِيَّاهُمْ ۗ وَلَا تَقْرَبُوا الْفَوَاحِشَ مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَّنَ ۗ وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا النَّفْسَ الَّتِي حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ ۗ ذَٰلِكُمْ وَصَّاكُم بِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

6:151 Say: “You come; I will tell (you) what your Lord has forbidden to you. (These are:) Do not associate anything with Him; do good to your parents; do not kill your children due to poverty – We provide sustenance for you and for them; do not approach shameful deeds whether open or secret; do not take life, which Allah has made sacred, without justification. Thus He instructs you about it so that you may think.”

With death the test life of an individual on this earth comes to an end. It appears that one’s fate whether he will go to Heaven or Hell is also known at the time of death itself. That means the evaluation of one’s record of test life would also be over at the time of death. This is evident from verse 6:93 in which mention has been made of the panicky state in which a wicked person (the rejecter of Faith) will face death. There are also other verses which imply that evaluation of one’s performance dossier is also completed and his fate is known at the time of death.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ تَوَفَّاهُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ ظَالِمِي أَنفُسِهِمْ قَالُوا فِيمَ كُنْتُمْ ۖ قَالُوا كُنَّا مُسْتَضْعَفِينَ فِي الْأَرْضِ ۗ قَالُوا أَلَمْ تَكُنْ أَرْضُ اللَّهِ وَاسِعَةً ۖ فَتُهَاجِرُوا فِيهَا ۗ فَأُولَٰئِكَ مَأْوَاهُمْ جَهَنَّمَ ۗ وَسَاءَتْ مَصِيرًا ۗ إِلَّا الْمُسْتَضْعَفِينَ مِنَ الرِّجَالِ وَالنِّسَاءِ وَالْوِلْدَانَ لَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ حِيلَةً وَلَا يَهْتَدُونَ سَبِيلًا

4:97-98 When angels make those who did wrong to themselves die, they (angels) will ask: “What (plight) were you in?” They (i.e., the dying persons) would reply: “We were weak and oppressed on the earth.” They (angels) would say: “Was not the earth of Allah spacious enough for you to migrate to other places?” Their abode is Hell. What an evil destination! Except those men, women and children who are (really) weak and oppressed, who have no means in their power and do not find guidance for a way out.

فَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنْ افْتَرَىٰ عَلَى اللَّهِ كَذِبًا أَوْ كَذَّبَ بِآيَاتِهِ ۗ أُولَٰئِكَ يَنَالُهُمْ نَصِيبُهُمْ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ ۗ حَتَّىٰ إِذَا جَاءَهُمْ رَسُولُنَا يُبَيِّنُ لَهُمْ قَالُوا أَيُّنَ مَا كُنْتُمْ تَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ ۗ قَالُوا ضَلُّوا عَنَّا وَشَهِدُوا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ أَنَّهُمْ كَانُوا كَافِرِينَ

7:37 Then who is more wicked than the one who fabricated a lie against Allah or treated His verses as falsehood? They will get their share from the Record. Thus when our messengers (angels) arrive and take their (souls at death), they (angels) will ask: “Where are those whom you used to invoke besides Allah?” They will reply: “They all had gone away from us.” (Thus) they will bear witness against themselves (to the fact) that they were unbelievers.

وَلَوْ تَرَىٰ إِذْ يَتَوَفَّى الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا ۗ الْمَلَائِكَةُ يَضْرِبُونَ وُجُوهَهُمْ وَأَدْبَارَهُمْ وَذُوقُوا عَذَابَ الْحَرِيقِ

8:50 If you could see the scene of taking (the souls of) the unbelievers (at death) by the angels beating their faces and their backs (saying): “You taste the penalty of burning (Fire)!”

فَكَيْفَ إِذَا تَوَفَّتْهُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ يَضْرِبُونَ وُجُوهَهُمْ وَأَدْبَارَهُمْ ذَلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ اتَّبَعُوا مَا أَسْخَطَ اللَّهَ وَكَرِهُوا رِضْوَانَهُ فَأَحْبَطَ أَعْمَالَهُمْ  
47:27-28 But how (will it be) when the angels take their souls at death beating their faces and their backs? That is because they followed what would anger Allah and they hated Allah’s good pleasure; so He made their deeds futile.

الَّذِينَ تَتَوَفَّاهُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ طَيِّبِينَ يَقُولُونَ سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ ادْخُلُوا الْجَنَّةَ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ  
16:32 (When) the angels take (soul at death) of those who are good, they (the angels) will tell (them): “Peace be on you. You enter the Garden for what you did.”

These verses reveal that the angels who delete human *nafs* from the body know whether the dying person is righteous or wicked. Their questions and behaviour to the dying person do reflect that. This means evaluation of the performance record stored in human *sadr* is programmed to take place at death.

The Quran also reveals that the records of the successful (who will enter Heaven) will be stored in *Illiyoon* (Q. 83:19) and the records of the unsuccessful (who will enter Hell) will be stored in *Sijjeen* (Q. 83:7).

يَوْمَ يَقُومُ النَّاسُ لِرَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ كَلَّا إِنَّ كِتَابَ الْفَجَّارِ لَفِي سَجِّينٍ وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا سَجِّينٌ كِتَابٌ مَرْقُومٌ  
83:6-9 A Day when (the entire) humanity will stand before the Lord of the worlds. Nay, verily the Record of the wicked is (preserved) in *Sijjeen*. And how to explain to you what *Sijjeen* is? (That is) a Register Numbered.

كَلَّا إِنَّ كِتَابَ الْأَبْرَارِ لَفِي عَلِّيِّينَ وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا عَلِّيُّونَ كِتَابٌ مَرْقُومٌ يَشْهَدُهُ الْمُقَرَّبُونَ  
83:18-21 Nay, verily the Record of the righteous is (preserved) in *Illiyoon*. And how to explain to you what *Illiyoon* is? (That is) a Register Numbered. Those nearest (angels) witness guard) it.

*Illiyoon* and *Sijjeen* may be thought of as distinct sectors in the divine Memory. Thus it can be seen that the record of performance of every individual during the test life on Earth retrieved by the angel at the time of death will be stored in either *Illiyoon* or *Sijjeen* depending on the success or failure of the individual in the test. It is this record that is handed over to the individual on the Day of Judgement.