

Last Day 14 – Is the soul part of the body?

Based on the works of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan (حفظه الله)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

QUESTION: Is the soul part of the body or it something separate?

ANSWER:

Muslims believe that the soul is something separate from the body, although both have been created by Allaah. They are joined together for a time, but at some point, the soul is separated from the body permanently – at the time of death.

Ibn Taymeeyah, one of the greatest scholars of the 7th century after the time of Muhammad (may perfect peace and security be upon him) said:

“The position of the Companions (of Muhammad (may perfect peace and security be upon him)) and the generation who came after them and followed them in goodness and all of the early generations of this (Muslim) nation and of the scholars of the Sunnah is:

that the soul is an independent entity, separate from the body. It can experience bliss and it can be punished – and it is not (the same thing as) the body nor is it one of its parts.”

He also said:

“As for the statement which some people say: “Where is the location of the soul in the body?” Then the soul is not specified to one particular place in the body; rather it flows through the body....

And life (itself) is conditional upon the soul. So if the soul is present in the body, then there is life in it (the body). And if the soul departs from (the body), then life departs from it.”