

Exploring Beliefs: Life After Death

Learning objective: To understand and compare different religious and non-religious perspectives on the concept of life after death.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of how different worldviews approach the mystery of what happens when life ends. Think carefully about the meanings of these key terms.

Afterlife

A belief held by many religions that a person's consciousness or soul continues to exist in a different state or realm after their physical body dies.

Reincarnation

The belief, common in Hinduism and Buddhism, that the soul or spirit, after biological death, begins a new life in a different physical body or form.

Resurrection

The belief, central to Christianity, that a person who has died will be brought back to life, often referring to a spiritual or transformed existence.

The Soul

Often described as the non-physical part of a person, which many believe is the seat of their emotions, character, and identity, and which may survive death.

Karma

A concept in Hinduism and Buddhism where a person's actions in this life influence the quality of their future life or rebirth.

Jannah

The term used in Islam to describe Paradise or Heaven, a place of peace and joy for those who have lived a righteous life.

Nirvana

A state of perfect peace and happiness in Buddhism, reached when a person breaks the cycle of reincarnation and suffering.

Moksha

In Hinduism, this is the liberation from the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth, representing the ultimate goal of the soul.

Secular Perspective

A worldview that focuses on life in the present world rather than religious beliefs about the afterlife, often emphasising the importance of the legacy we leave behind.

Legacy

Something that a person leaves behind after they die, such as their actions, contributions to society, memories, or creative works, which keep their influence alive.

Heaven

A place or state of existence often described in Abrahamic religions as being in the presence of God after death.

Hell

A concept in several religions describing a place of separation from God or a place of punishment for negative actions during one's lifetime.