

From two religions or two different religious traditions, explain religious beliefs about Euthanasia. (8 marks)

Most Christians believe that life is sacred and given by God, and therefore only God can decide when life ends. This means that many Christians trust God to end life when the proper time comes and would not accept any intervention that would end a life before God decides. Christians follow the Ten Commandments, one of which says, "You shall not murder." The deliberate ending of a life could be classed as murder. Another Christian teaching is "Love your neighbour as yourself." Luke 10:27. Some Christians believe that ending pain and suffering, even if this means ending a life before God decides, to be an act of love and compassion. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "Whatever its motives and means, direct euthanasia consists in putting an end to the lives of handicapped, sick or dying persons. It is morally unacceptable." This shows that they are strictly against it as they believe God designs every single one of us and puts us on earth for a reason and for us to make a choice to take that away would be disrespectful to God and his creations.

Euthanasia is the deliberate ending of someone's life for compassionate reasons because they are suffering. Many Muslims believe life is sacred and only Allah can give life and take life away. The Islamic teaching on euthanasia is clear. Life is sacred, and only Allah can give life or take life away. It is wrong for any person, even a patient or doctor, to end or request to end a life before Allah does, because it would go against Allah's plan for that life. The Qur'an makes this clear: "It is not possible for one to die except by permission of Allah." According to Muslim teaching, people who break this rule will not go to Paradise. If a person is suffering, they should cope with it and have faith that Allah will not allow them to suffer more than they can endure. Suffering is seen as a test from Allah and those who manage their suffering, without disobeying the teachings of Allah, will be rewarded in Paradise. Another muslim teaching is that "Whoever commits suicide with something will be punished with the same thing in the (hell) fire." Anyone who facilitates euthanasia, or helps someone to take their own life, is guilty of the sin of zulm, because they deny the dying person his right to life and do not fulfil their obligation to care for him.

Overall, Muslims and Christians are strictly against euthanasia and believe it should not be committed but there are some exceptions under the eyes of God.