



What is a Miracle and Do They Really Happen

KS4 RELIGIOUS STUDIES

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What is a Miracle?

A **miracle** is an event that seems impossible according to the normal laws of nature. The word comes from the **Latin** word meaning "wonder" or "amazement." Miracles are usually thought to involve something good or helpful happening against all odds. For example, a person recovering from an illness doctors said was fatal, or someone surviving an accident that should have killed them.

In **religious traditions** like **Christianity**, **Islam**, **Judaism**, and **Hinduism**, miracles are often seen as signs of divine power—messages from God or the supernatural world. Many holy texts describe miracles performed by religious figures like **Jesus**, **Muhammad**, and **Buddha**.

Think of it like a video game where the rules suddenly change: if the character should fall off a cliff and die, but instead they survive—that would be like a miracle in real life, breaking the normal rules we expect.

Do Miracles Really Happen?

People have very different views on this. **Believers** argue that miracles happen all the time—they point to stories from religious texts, personal experiences, and survival stories that seem unexplainable. They see miracles as proof that there's something greater than science controlling the world.

Skeptics and scientists suggest what seems like a miracle usually has a hidden explanation. They argue that doctors sometimes make mistakes, coincidences happen more often than we think, and our brains are very good at remembering the unlikely events while forgetting the ordinary ones. They believe understanding science will eventually explain everything we currently call miraculous.

Think of it like a magic trick: what looks impossible until you learn the secret behind it. Some people believe the secret is divine power; others believe the secret is just science we don't fully understand yet.

What Science Says

Scientists focus on finding **natural explanations** for events. They use the rules of **physics, chemistry, and biology** to understand how things work. When something happens that can't be explained yet, scientists see it as a puzzle to solve, not as a supernatural event. This doesn't mean scientists are against religion—many scientists believe in God and miracles while also studying how nature works.

The Big Question

Whether miracles are real comes down to what you believe about the world. Religious people often see miracles as proof of faith, while others see them as coincidences or unexplained science. Both views can be respectful and thoughtful—this is why **miracle debates** remain one of the most interesting conversations in religious studies.