No one greets me except that Allah restores my soul to me so that I return his greeting

Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "No one greets me except that Allah restores my soul to me so that I return his greeting."

[Its chain of narrators is Hasan/Sound] [Narrated by Abu Dāwūd and Ahmad]

The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) informs that his soul is restored to him to return the greeting of whoever greets him, whether he is near or far. Life in the Barzakh (the period between death and resurrection) and the grave is a matter of the unseen, and no one knows its reality except Allah, Who is Competent over all things.

http://www.sunnah.global/hadeeth/en/show/6222