



Ramadan Daily Quran Studies, by Dr Zahid Aziz, 2024

Produced by:

Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam Lahore (UK)

Study 30:

The Oneness of God –

4: Depth of its meaning





- Islam eradicated **the crude form of idolatry** practised by the fellow Arabs of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, i.e., worship of actual idols of stone and other such objects.
- But there were **more subtle forms of worship of beings and things other than God** prevailing in the world which Islam identified, and it argued and warned against them.
- People considering themselves to be worshippers of the One God were violating the concept of oneness of God under various guises.



- The Christian doctrine ascribed to Jesus a status beyond that of a mortal human being, calling him ‘son of God’. The Quran repeatedly rejected this concept. It says:



قَالُوا اتَّخَذَ اللَّهُ وَلَدًا سُبْحٰنَهُ ۗ هُوَ الْغَنِيُّ ۗ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمٰوٰتِ وَمَا فِي الْاَرْضِ ۗ
اِنَّ عِنْدَكُمْ مِّنْ سُلْطٰنٍ بِهٰذَا ۗ اَتَقُولُوْنَ عَلٰى اللّٰهِ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُوْنَ ﴿٢٨﴾

“They say: Allah has taken a son (to Himself). Glory be to Him!
He is the Self-sufficient. His is what is in the heavens and what is in the earth.
You have no authority for (saying) this.
Do you say against Allah what you do not know?” (10:68)





- The expression “Glory be to Him” (*subhāna-hu*) is used here to indicate that God is free of all defects and imperfections.
- Requiring sons, or any progeny at all, is a requirement of imperfect human beings, and of other animal life, because they become weak with old age and then die. The father needs the son to assist him, and eventually the son takes the place of the father.
- In this verse it is said that God is Self-sufficient (*al-ghanī*), which means ‘above need of anything’. All creation in the heavens and the earth is equal in being His creation, and no one can be His son to the exclusion of all others.



- Critics of the Quran allege that the Quran has wrongly assumed that in Christianity Jesus is regarded as the physical ‘son of God’.
- They say that the term ‘son of God’ used in Christianity is meant only metaphorically, meaning a chosen one, and that the Holy Prophet Muhammad showed his lack of knowledge by not realising it was being used in this sense.



- However, awareness of this other sense of the term ‘son of God’ is clearly present in the Quran. It says:

وَقَالَتِ الْيَهُودُ وَالنَّصَارَى نَحْنُ أَبْنَاءُ اللَّهِ وَأَحِبَّاؤُهُ ط قُلْ فَلِمَ يُعَذِّبُكُمْ بِذُنُوبِكُمْ ط
بَلْ أَنْتُمْ بَشَرٌ مِّمَّنْ خَلَقَ يَغْفِرُ لِمَن يَشَاءُ وَيُعَذِّبُ مَن يَشَاءُ ط

“And the Jews and the Christians say:

We are the **sons of Allah and His beloved ones.**

Say: Why does He then punish you for your sins?

Rather, you are mortals from among those whom He has created.

He forgives whom He pleases and punishes whom He pleases.” (5:18)



- It is stated here that no people can be “sons of God and His beloved ones” to the exclusion of others. All people are mortals created by God, and He forgives or punishes any of them according to the same principles.
- Likewise, no individual prophet or man sent by God can be a beloved of God in a more special way than the other prophets sent by God.



- Thus the Quran says about the messengers sent by God:



وَقَالُوا اتَّخَذَ الرَّحْمَنُ وَلَدًا سُبْحٰنَهُ ۗ بَلْ عِبَادٌ مُّكْرَمُونَ ﴿٢٦﴾



“And they say: The Beneficent has taken to Himself a son.
Glory be to Him! No, **they are honoured servants**” (21:26).



- All messengers of God are equally honoured servants, honoured by Him and by Muslims. All human beings are equal before God; no one group is more beloved than others because of its descent, race or religion.



- The Quran also mentions violations of the oneness of God which are committed by Muslims as well.
- In Study 27 a verse has been quoted which begins as follows:

“They take their doctors of law and their monks for lords besides Allah” (9:31).
- Those among Muslims who blindly follow the *ulama* or the *shaikhs* and *pirs*, and believe that obedience to them constitutes obedience to God because they have better knowledge of the faith, are, in effect, taking them as gods besides Allah.



- They relegate Allah to the background, as if Allah had handed over His authority to their religious leaders.
- They fail to question as to whether their rulings are in accordance with the Quran and the teachings of the Holy Prophet.
- They are demeaning themselves to a position lower than that which God gave them by bestowing upon them the power of thinking and reason.



- Another kind of violation of the oneness of God is mentioned in the Quran as follows:



أَرَأَيْتَ مَنِ اتَّخَذَ إِلَهَهُ هَوَاهُ ...



“Have you seen him who takes his low desire for his god? ...”

(25:43, see also similar statement in 45:23).

- Those who do not truly follow belief in one God, whether they are disbelievers in God, or are members of a non-Islamic religion, or are from among Muslims themselves, will often be found to take some low desire of theirs as the god that they worship.



- This manifests itself in that they will do anything, violate any moral standard, commit any injustice against others, in order to satisfy their base desires and emotions.
- They do not even hesitate to distort their religion in order to justify their misdeeds. When they want to satisfy some low desire of their own, they often do so under the pretext of following a religion.
- Thus the concept of the oneness of God as given by Islam excludes all kinds of behaviour that involves treating other things and beings, and one's desires, as if they were god.



- Such behaviour reduces a human being to a very low state, as the Quran says:



حُنَفَاءَ لِلَّهِ غَيْرَ مُشْرِكِينَ بِهِ ۗ وَمَنْ يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَكَأَنَّمَا خَرَّ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ
فَتَخَطَّفَهُ الطَّيْرُ أَوْ تَهَوَّىٰ بِهِ الرِّيحُ فِي مَكَانٍ سَحِيقٍ ﴿٣١﴾



“(You should be) upright for Allah, not setting up partners with Him.
And whoever sets up partners with Allah, **it is as if he had fallen from on high,**
then the birds had snatched him away,
or the wind had carried him off to a distant place.”
(22:31).



***THE END OF
THE RAMADAN DAILY QURAN STUDIES
FOR THE YEAR 2024***

***Lastly, Eid Mubarak
to all readers of these Quran Studies.
Wishing all of you
a very happy and blessed Eid of April 2024!***

