

41 –Tashbeeh

QUESTION: What is tashbeeh?

ANSWER: We have mentioned in previous postings that unfortunately, some people have fallen into the error of comparing the Creator to His Creation.

There are numerous proofs from the Quran to show that this is an error: ¹

There is nothing similar to Him.

Surah ash Shura (the 42nd chapter) verse 11

Then is the One who Creates like the one who does not create? Do you not consider and reflect?

Surah an Nahl (the 16th chapter) verse 17

Do you know anything comparable to Him?

Surah Maryam (the 19th chapter) verse 65

In addition, the human mind instinctively knows that the unseen All Powerful Creator is not like His Creation, the Attributes of each being befitting and appropriate for that being. So the Attributes of the Creator – who is called ‘Allah’ in Arabic – will befit His Majesty and Honour.

We, on the other hand, are mortal. We have faults, make mistakes, get tired, live and die – as well as all the other things that go along with being human. So even if we share an Attribute with Allah – e.g. my father has power and Allah has Quwwa (Power) – then the nature and specific details of these two powers will be vastly different.

We can see this amongst the Creation as well. A mosquito has an eye, and I have an eye. Are the two eyes the same?
Of course not. So sharing the name of an Attribute does not necessitate sharing the same qualities.

In this way, Muslims come to know that the Attributes of Allah are not like the Attributes of the Creation.

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NEXT TIME: We will discuss the error of takyeef – asking how Allah is. What exactly is this mistake?

¹ Refer to *al qawaa'id ul muthlaa* p64 of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al ‘Uthaymeen for more information