

16 Submission

Continuing our section on Tawheed ur Ruboobiyyah (the Oneness of Lordship).....

QUESTION: Do Muslims believe that everything submits to Allah?

ANSWER: Yes, Muslims believe that all objects submit themselves to Him. ¹

The Quran states:

Do you not see that to Allah prostrates whoever is in the Heavens and whoever is on the Earth, and the Sun and the Moon and the Stars and the Mountains and the Trees...

Surah al Hajj (the 22nd chapter) verse 18

However Muslims believe that in many cases, we cannot perceive how the objects glorify Allah.

The seven heavens and the earth and all that is contained in them, glorify Him and there is not a thing except that it glorifies His Praise. But you do not understand their glorification.

Surah al Israa (the 17th chapter) verse 44

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QUESTION: So what does this submission actually mean?

ANSWER: This is a good question, especially when one considers that there are many people on the face of the earth who say that they do not believe in Allah. How can it be said that they submit to Him then?

Islam teaches that everything submits to the Universal command of

¹ Refer to 'aqeedah ut tawheed p33 of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan for more information

Allah. This means that all people and all things cannot escape from Allah's Will and Decree upon them – if He wants something to happen to them, it will happen.

If Allah wishes a person (whether he be an atheist or a believer in Allah) to die or to be ill or to recover from illness or to pass an exam, etc, then there is nothing that person can do to avoid this Will. This person, happily or unhappily, submits to the command of Allah.

The Quran mentions:

Do they seek something other than the religion of Allah – while to Him submitted all creatures in the heavens and the earth, willingly or unwillingly? And to Him they shall all be returned.

Surah al Imraan (the 3rd chapter) verse 83

However, a person who rejects Allah and does not obey Him has not submitted to Him in terms of His Legislation.

His legislation here refers to His rules and regulations.

This is a subtle, yet important difference, which many people do not understand.

Islam teaches that there is a difference between the Universal Command of Allah (which we all have to submit to) and the Legislative command of Allah (His Rules which He asks us to follow, but which people may choose not to).

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NEXT TIME:

How does the Quran use arguments to show that Allah exists?