



PARABLES FROM THE NOBLE QUR' AAN ON THE FALSEHOOD OF SHIRK

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Date Published: December 30th 2004



All praise is due to Allaah, Lord of the Worlds and may the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon our Prophet Muhammad and on his Family and Companions.

“Verily, Allaah is not ashamed to set forth a parable even of a mosquito or so much more when it is bigger than it. And as for those who believe, they know that it is the Truth from their Lord, but as for those who disbelieve, they say; “What did Allaah intend by this parable?” By it He misleads many and many He guides thereby. And He misleads thereby only those who are rebellious, disobedient to Allaah. Those who break Allaah’s Covenant after ratifying it and sever what Allaah has ordered to be joined and do mischief on earth, it is they who are the losers.” [Sooratul-Baqarah, 2:26-27]

Allaah, the Most High and Exalted, has presented the parable of the *muwahhid* (monotheist) and the *mushrik* (polytheist). The Most High and Exalted says:

¹ Translated by Masood Chowdhury from ‘*Silsilah Sharh Ar-Rasaai’l* by Dr. Saalih al-Fawzaan [pp. 168-174].

“Allaah puts forth a similitude: a (slave) man belonging to many partners disputing with one another, and a (slave) man belonging entirely to one master. Are those two equal in comparison? All the praises and thanks are to Allaah! But most of them know not.” [Sooratuz-Zumar, 39:29]

The *mushrik* has several deities. He worships many statues and doesn't know which of them to please. His situation is like that of the slave who has many masters all of whom are partners in his ownership. Each one of them wishes that the slave comply and conform to his wishes despite his wishes conflicting with that of the others. This leaves the poor slave bewildered between these many masters, not knowing whom to please from them.

As for the *muwahhid* however, his parable is that of the one owned entirely by a single person, fully at ease with his wishes and desires. He is in complete harmony with his master, free of conflict, disagreement and anxiety. He is a slave owned by one man. This is the state of the *muwahhid* who is the slave of one Lord and He is Allaah, the Most High and Exalted. He fulfils his religious duties to Allaah and abstains from that which displeases Him.

ARE THOSE TWO EQUAL IN COMPARISON?

This question is posed out of rebuke. Of course the two are not equal! Allaah, the Most High and Exalted, presents this parable to show the difference between *shirk* and *tawheed*.

And Allaah puts forward another parable to show the falsehood of *shirk* in His statement, the Most High:

“And whoever assigns partners to Allaah, it is as if had fallen from the sky, and the birds had snatched him, or the wind had thrown him to a far off place.” [Sooratul-Mumimoon, 22:31]

The *Muwahhid* holds a raised position and a lofty rank with Allaah, the Most High and Exalted, like the one in the sky who too commands a raised position

and lofty rank. As for the *mushrik*, his similitude is like the one who falls from a height. By associating partners with Allaah he fell from the height in which are the people of *tawheed* and the loftiness in which are the people of *tawheed* and the great elevation in which are the people of *tawheed*. So the *mushrik* fell from an immensely great height. What do you think will be his predicament as he falls; may Allaah protect us from this? Should he collide with a bird's wings, it will shred his flesh and devour him in the air. And if was able to survive the wings [of the bird] then the wind will carry him to a far off distant, desolate land. Tossing him to this barren, uninhabited place where there is no water or indeed for that matter anything else.

Similarly the *mushrik* exposes himself to desires, ways and ideas, which will shred him and scatter him and ultimately destroy him. This is the parable of the *muwahhid* and the *mushrik*. The *muwahhid* is in loftiness and highness and elevation with Allaah, the Most High and Exalted, for his *tawheed* and sincerity. The *mushrik* on the other hand is in free descent from a lofty position and in free descent from *tawheed*, exposing himself to every destruction and misguidance. This is the state of the *mushrik*, may Allaah protect us from this, exposed to every destruction and desire and to every trial and *shaytaan*. Each trial causing him distress and doubt. Are the former and the latter equal?

At the end of the (same) chapter, Allaah gives another parable showing the falsehood of *shirk* and says:

“O mankind! A similitude has been coined so listen to it (carefully): Verily! Those, on whom you call besides Allaah, will never create (even) a fly, even though they combine together for this purpose. And if the fly snatched away a thing from them, they would have no power to release it from the fly. So weak are (both) the seeker and the sought.” [Sooratul-Hajj, 22:73]

All of the statues and all of that which is worshipped, other than Allaah, cannot create even a fly. So how can they be worshipped instead of Allaah when they

cannot even create a fly, which is the smallest and most lowly thing? It was not requested of them that they create land or that they create a mountain or that they create a camel, or a cow, or human beings, rather only a fly, the most insignificant of things. This is a challenge from Allaah, the Most High and Exalted, for the deities of the *mushriks*. Therefore if indeed they are unable to create a fly then how can they be worshipped alongside The Creator who created everything, Glorified and Exalted be He? Allaah is The Creator of all things, The Creator, the All-Knowing. Nothing defies His ability. So how can this (Creator) and those (false deities) be compared?

This is a clear example of the falsehood of shirk and that it has no foundation, basis or extension.

“WILL NEVER CREATE...”

Take note of the expression “*Will never create...*” which includes the future until the Day of Resurrection. This is an ongoing challenge till the Day of Resurrection. Therefore any *mushrik* who calls on other than Allaah, it should be said to him: The thing you worship, is it able to create a fly? This parable is intended for all that is worshipped including statues, idols, saints, righteous people, graves, trees, stones etc. As long as these [deities] are unable to even create a fly then how do they deserve to be worshipped?

“Is the One Who creates as one who creates not? Will you not then remember?” [Sooratun-Nahl, 16:17]

“Those whom they (mushrikeen) invoke besides Allaah have not created anything, but are themselves created. (They are) dead, lifeless.”

[Sooratun-Nahl, 16:20-21]

“Tell me or inform me (what) do you think about your (so-called) partner-gods to whom you call upon besides Allaah, show me, what they have created of the earth? Or have they any share in the heavens?” [Soorah Faatir, 35:40]

The *mushrikeen* are unable to declare that their deities created even a fly. Nor will they be able to do so in the future. Even now in an age where technology has advanced and diversified, the world’s craftsmen and the world’s most skilled and the world’s doctors are unable to create even a fly! They are able to manufacture an aeroplane, which carries passengers, by joining (different) parts together. This is a viable product which man has learnt of and come to know of. However it is Allaah who made this (knowledge) available to us for our use. He is the One that, out of His mercy, inspired us such that we could use (this knowledge) and take advantage of it. Yes, it is possible that man can make an aeroplane or ship. However as for creation, no he cannot even create a fly! This is from the exclusive rights of Allaah, Glorified and Exalted be He.

“Is the One Who creates as one who creates not? Will you not then remember?” [Sooratun-Nahl 16:17]

Then He said:

“And if the fly snatched away a thing from them....”

If the fly, the weakest of entities, took something like scent or gold that had been placed on this idol. And it is from the practices of (the *mushrikeen*) that they place items on their deities like jewellery, gold, perfume and incense. So if a fly came and took something small that had been placed (on these idols) are these idols able to reclaim that which the fly took? They are unable to defend themselves (in the least bit) from the fly.

“And if the fly snatched away a thing from them, they would have no power to release it from the fly. So weak are (both) the seeker...” who is the *mushrik* “and the sought” which is the deity other than Allaah, Glorified be He. A fly overcame them all! This is one of the greatest examples of (the falsehood of) associating partners with Allaah, Glorified be He.

It is possible however that they, the *mushrikeen* will say: “We didn’t say that our deities are creators alongside Allaah. Allaah is the sole creator and we acknowledge this. He is The Creator, The Provider, The One Who gives life and death and The One Who arranges all matters. We too believe in this. But these (deities) are righteous servants of (Allaah) and we only desire that they intercede for us with Allaah. We only take them as a means of approach. We only worship them so they can bring us closer to Allaah. We know that they don’t create or provide (for us). However they are the righteous servants (of Allaah) who have a high position (with Him) and we wish that they draw us closer to Allaah and besiege Him for us and act as intermediaries for us.” So to this end they make sacrifices to them and take oaths (in their names) and make *tawaaf* of their graves and assemble by them. They dedicate for them their different types of worship and at the same time they admit that (their deities) didn’t create, provide or arrange the matters (of the creation) in any shape or form. Rather they only want from them to intercede on their behalf with Allaah.

Allaah, Glorified be he, destroys this (spurious claim) with the following parable:

“He sets forth for you a parable from your own selves. Do you have partners among those whom your right hands possess (i.e. your slaves) to share as equals in the wealth We have bestowed on you? Whom you fear as you fear each other? Thus do We explain the signs in detail to a people who have sense.” [Sooratur-Room, 30:28]

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So if you would be unhappy that someone should share with you your slaves so how then can you be happy for Allaah, that one of His slaves should be associated with Him (in His worship). And they, the *mushrikeen* used to say in their *talbiyah* (in Hajj): "I am here (O Allaah), You have no partners other than a partner who is for you. You own him and that which he owns." So Allaah coined this similitude about them.

And the *tawfeeq* is from Allaah. May the peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad and upon his Family and Companions.

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