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Incorrect translations of la ilaha ill Allaah

Based on the works of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan (حفظه الله)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

QUESTION: On the topic of different translations of ‘la ilaha ill Allaah’, we see the following translations very commonly amongst the Muslims in books and articles today. Are they correct or not?¹

1) There is no one who is worshipped except Allaah ❌

This translation is indeed found in Islamic books nowadays but carefully reading it will reveal the problem.

This translation is saying that everything that is worshipped anywhere on the face of the earth is in fact Allaah. So this would include Krishna, Jesus, Buddha, fire, stones, idols and all the other gods that people choose to worship.

There are many things worshipped by humans, but Muslims believe that out of all of them, only Allaah DESERVES to be worshipped.

2) There is no Creator except Allaah ❌

Indeed, there is no Creator except Allaah – all Muslims will affirm this – but this is not the meaning which is intended by the person who states la ilaaha ill Allaah.

This incorrect translation only affirms Tawheed ur ruboobeyah – the Tawheed of Allaah’s lordship.

Affirming that Allaah is the Only Creator of the Heavens and the Earth is something that has been done by every community that we know of.

¹ Refer to ‘Aqeedah ut Tawheed p50 of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan for more information

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This translation does not affirm the Tawheed ul uloohiyah – that Allaah alone deserves to be WORSHIPPED – which is the crucial requirement to enter Islam.

3) **None has the right to make judgement (haakimiyah) except for Allaah**

This translation can be found in the writings of certain political writers in the Muslim world.

Muslims do indeed believe that there is no judgement except for Allaah – only He, the Exalted, has the right to make legislation and laws. This is true.

But this is PART of the meaning of la ilaha ill Allaah – and it is not the complete meaning.

It may be that a person affirms that no one has the right to make judgements except Allaah, but then that person also worships something other than Allaah such as a Muslim ‘saint’ or similar things. This person has not really understood what saying la ilaha ill Allaah really requires of a person.

So as we mentioned the correct translation of la ilaha ill Allaah is:

There is none truly deserving of worship except Allaah alone.