

Tashbeeh

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

Compiled by Abu Abdirrahmaan Nasser ibn Najam

Checked by Aboo Talhah Daawood Burbank (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

QUESTION: What is tashbeeh?

ANSWER:

Unfortunately, some people have fallen into the error of comparing the Creator to His Creation.

There are numerous proofs from the Qur'aan to show that this is an error:¹

There is nothing similar to Him.

[Soorah ash Shooraa (the 42nd chapter) verse 11]

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

[Soorah an Nahl (the 16th chapter) verse 17]

Do you know anything comparable to Him?

[Soorah 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 'Allaah' 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 Allaah – e.g. my father has power and Allaah 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 Allaah are not like the Attributes of the Creation.

¹ Refer to *al Qawaa'id ul Muthlaa* p64 of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen for more information