

What is Tawheed ur Ruboobeyah? 2

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

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Submission

Tawheed ur Ruboobeyah (the Oneness of Lordship)

QUESTION: Do Muslims believe that everything submits to Allaah?

ANSWER:

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

The Qur'aan states:

Do you not see that to Allaah 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...

[Soorah al Hajj (the 22nd chapter) verse 18]

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

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.

[Soorah al Israa (the 17th chapter) verse 44]

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 Allaah. How can it be said that they submit to Him then?

Islam teaches that everything submits to the Universal command of Allaah. This means that all people and all things cannot escape from Allaah's Will and Decree upon them – if He wants something to happen to them, it will happen.

¹ Refer to 'Aqeedah ut Tawheed p33 of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan for more information

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If Allaah wishes a person (whether he be an atheist or a believer in Allaah) 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 Allaah.

The Qur'aan mentions:

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

[Soorah al Imraan (the 3rd chapter) verse 83]

However, a person who rejects Allaah 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 Allaah (which we all have to submit to) and the Legislative command of Allaah (His Rules which He asks us to follow, but which people may choose not to).