

Glorified Be He

Compiled by Sheikh Omer El-Hamdoon

In the Name of Allah, Most Merciful

O Allah! Possessor of the Sovereignty, You give sovereignty to whom You will, and You strip sovereignty from whom You will. And You endue with honour whom You will, and You humiliate whom You will. In Your Hand is the good. Verily, You are Able to do all things. You make the night enter into the day, and You make the day enter into the night. You bring the living out of the dead, and You bring the dead out of the living. And You give wealth and sustenance to whom You will, without limit.

O Allah! You are the most worthy of remembrance; and You are the Only One worthy of worship. You are the One who gives help when needed. You are the Kindest of those who have ruled. You are the Most generous of those asked, and You are the Widest of those who give. You are the King, you have no partner. You are the One: who has no associate. Everything will be destroyed except You. You aren't obeyed except by Your permission, and You aren't disobeyed except with Your knowledge. O Lord of the Worlds! You are obeyed and so You are grateful. You are disobeyed and You are forgiving. You are the closest of witnesses, and the nearest of protectors. You have lead

others by their forelocks. You have written the works, and copied the time spans. All hearts turn to You, their secrets in front of You are announced. The lawful is that which (only) You make lawful, and the unlawful is that which (only) You make unlawful. The Way of Life is that which You have chosen. The Order is Your Order. The creation is Your creation, and the slaves are Your slaves. And You are the Most Kind, Most Merciful.

اللهم أنت أحق من دُكر، وأحق من عُبد، وأنصر من ابْتُغي، وأرأف من مَلِك، وأجود من سُئل، وأوسع من أعطى، أنت الملك لا شريك لك، والفرد لا ند لك، كل شيء هالك إلا وجهك، لن تطاع إلا بإذنك، ولن تعصى إلا بعلمك، يا رب العالمين! تطاع فتشكر، وتعصى فتغفر، أقرب شهيد، وأدنى حفيظ، حُلّت دون النفوس، وأخذت بالنواصي، وكتبت الآثار، ونسخت الآجال، القلوب لك مفضية، والسرُّ عندك علانية، الحلال ما أحللت، والحرام ما حرّمت، والدين ما شرعت، والأمر ما قضيت، الخلق خلقك، والعباد عبادك، وأنت الله الرؤوف الرحيم.

يا من لا تراه في الدنيا العيون، ولا تخالطه الظنون، ولا يصفه الواصفون، ولا تغيره الحوادث، ولا يخشى الدوائر، ويعلم مكائيل البحار، ويعلم مناقيل الجبال، وعدد قطر الأمطار، وعدد ورق الأشجار، ولا توارى منه سماء سماء، ولا أرض أرضاً، ولا بحر ما في قعره، ولا جبل ما في وعره، نسألك اللهم أن تجعل خير أعمارنا آخرها. اللهم اجعل خير أعمارنا آخرها، وخير أعمالنا خواتمها، وخير أيامنا يوم لقاك، يا أكرم الأكرمين، ويا رب العالمين!

Introduction

Allah says: **“And I haven’t created Jinn and Mankind except to worship Me.”**¹

The most fundamental aspect of worshipping Allah is knowing Him. For had He not created His creation, He wouldn’t have been known.

This small booklet outlines some aspects that Muslims believe about their Lord Allah, Glorified Be He. Their belief would lead them to worshipping Him in the way that He has chosen for them. And Allah knows best.

He is One and The Only One

He has no partner in His Kingdom.

He is Exalted beyond having opposites. He has no opponent, no equal, no minister, no associate, no consultant, no helper, no intercessor except by His wish.

“Say: ‘Call upon those whom you assert (to be associate gods) besides Allah’. They possess not even the weight of an ant’s egg, either in the heavens or on the earth, nor have they any share in either, nor there is for Him any supporter from among them.”²

¹ The Holy Qur’an; The Winds that scatter 51 : 56

² The Holy Qur’an; Saba’ 34 : 22

³ The Holy Qur’an; Sincerity 112 : 1-4

He has no parent, and no child. No one is equal to Him. He has no relatives nor does He have a wife.

“Say: ‘He is Allah, (the) One. [He is] Allah, The Self-Sufficient Master, (Whom all creatures need). He begets not, nor was He begotten. And there is none co-equal or comparable unto Him’.”³

If He were to have a child, then He would have to have a partner, and He is above that. Glorified be He.

“He is the Originator of the heavens and the earth. How can He have children when He has no wife? He created all things and He is the All-Knower of everything.”⁴

If one were to say that He has a child without a wife, then this child is no more than His creation, because everything besides Him is creation.

“Had Allah willed to take a son, He could have chosen whom He pleased out of those whom He created. But glory be to Him! (He is above such things). He is Allah, the One, the Irresistible.”⁵

He doesn’t have a child, because the child would be like a supporter for Him, and He doesn’t need that. Or they have

⁴ The Holy Qur’an; The Cattle 6 : 101

⁵ The Holy Qur’an; The Groups 39 : 4

some inherited link to Him, but this isn't the case. The link He gives to His creation is related to their obedience to Him. If they worship Him, He raises them; and if they reject Him, He lowers them.

“And (both) the Jews and the Christians say: ‘We are the children of Allah and His loved ones.’ Say: ‘Why then does He punish you for your sins?’ Nay, you are but human beings, of those He has created, He forgives whom He wills and He punishes whom He wills’. And to Allah belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth and all that is between them, and to Him is the return.” ⁶

There is no god other than Him. Had there been any god besides Him, then the creation would collapse, because each god would compete with the other. This is contradictory, as The God is unlimited in His Power. So the presence of another god would limit Him; and Glorified be He, He isn't limited.

“Had there been therein (in the heavens and the earth) gods besides Allah, then verily both (the heavens and the earth) would have been ruined. Glorified be Allah, the Lord of the Throne, (High is He) above what they attribute to Him!” ⁷

⁶ The Holy Qur'an; The Table spread 5 : 18

⁷ The Holy Qur'an; The Prophets 21 : 22

He doesn't need anyone's help in running His kingdom. He doesn't need anyone to present the needs of His subjects or help Him in answering them.

The Prophet ﷺ said: ‘Allah said, “I am Rich and not in need of any associate. Whoever does an action, and associates someone else with Me, I will reject him and his association”.’ ⁸

He is Rich by Himself

Allah, the Almighty, isn't in need of anyone or anything. Rather, everything and everyone is in need of Him.

He creates without His being in need to do so and provides for His creation without any effort. If all the humans were righteous and pious, it won't benefit Him anything. And similarly, if all the humans were evil and defiant, that wouldn't harm Him.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: ‘Allah said, “O My Slaves! If the first of you till the last of you; the human of you and the jinn of you, were to be as righteous and pious as the most pious heart of any one man of you, that would not increase My Kingdom in anything. O My Slaves! If the first of you till the last of you; the human of you and the jinn of you, were to be as wicked and evil as the most evil heart of any one man of you, that would not decrease My Kingdom in anything”.’ ⁹

⁸ Hadith; Narrated by Imam Muslim

⁹ Hadith; Narrated by Imam Muslim

He doesn't eat nor does He drink, because He isn't in need of anything.

Eating and drinking are acts carried out by some of the creation. Allah has created our bodies like machines. They need fuel to process energy to fulfill their duties. Food and drink are Allah's creation. He has placed in them the ability to give energy. So, He doesn't eat nor does He drink, because He is The Self Sufficient. Food and drink are aspects of creation. Thus, to eat or drink, means you are created; because you are in need. The Creator isn't in need of anyone or anything. This includes air to breath.i

This is the example Allah gives to the Christians about Jesus, peace be upon him.

“The Messiah, son of Mary, was no more than a Messenger; many were the Messengers that passed away before him. His mother was a righteous believer. They both used to eat food. Look how We make the proofs clear to them, yet look how they are deluded away (from the truth).” ¹⁰

On the same basis, we can understand that Allah may create some of His creation which don't need fuel to carry out their duties, because Allah gives them the energy they need directly. This is true of the Angels for example.

¹⁰ The Holy Qur'an; The Table Spread : 75

Allah narrates the story of the Angels who visited Ibrahim (Abraham), peace be upon him:

“And surely, there came Our Messengers to Abraham with glad tidings. They said: *Salam* (Peace). He answered, *Salam* (Peace) and he hastened to entertain them with a roasted calf. But when he saw their hands went not towards it (the meal), he felt some mistrust of them, and conceived a fear of them. They said: "Fear not, we have been sent against the people of Lot." ¹¹

So, these Angels who were sent to Ibrahim didn't eat, because Allah has created Angels in that way.

We can understand this more, if we look at the physiology of respiration. Respiration is harmonizing of oxygen to utilize energy. For humans, respiration needs oxygen: no oxygen then the human dies. Whereas some simpler organisms like bacteria can respire without oxygen and go on to thrive. So, the Creator gives each organism different properties and capabilities.

There is nothing like Him

He isn't similar to any of His creation. There is nothing like Him in His being, His attributes and His actions.

¹¹ The Holy Qur'an; Hud 11 : 69 - 70

He doesn't enter into or embody in any of His creation. Nor does any of His creation enter into Him. He is separate from His creation in His existence. And the creation likewise.

He is Greater than all things. He is Bigger than all things. He is above all things. Exalted above everything.

No imagination can conceive of Him and no understanding can comprehend Him. He is different from any created being.

“There is nothing like Him and He is the Hearer, the Seer.” ¹²

So, it is impossible to imagine how He looks like or what He is like, because He is outside out the realms of our mind. Islam therefore, discourages such act.

He does as He pleases

Allah is the Creator and the Sustainer. He has created the Universe and it belongs to Him. He has brought us to life and given us provisions and He owns us. So, no one can dictate to Him what He can and can't do. Some people say “I'm not prepared to believe in a god who punishes or tortures people.” So, in effect they are setting the laws for

the Creator to abide by, and that is nonsense. He is the maker of rules and laws.

“And Allah does what He wills.” ¹³

“He cannot be questioned as to what He does, while they will be questioned.” ¹⁴

“He is the Doer of whatsoever He intends.” ¹⁵

Despite this, His Majesty has ordained on Himself, some matters which He has chosen by Himself, with regards to dealing with His creation. One of these matters is that He has forbidden oppression on Himself.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: ‘Allah said, “O My Slaves! I have forbidden oppression on Myself and I have made it forbidden amongst you; so do not oppress one another”.’ ¹⁶

Allah says: “Allah doesn't wrong even the weight of an ant's egg. Rather, if it is good: He multiplies it and gives from Himself a great reward.” ¹⁷

He is the Absolute just Judge, who doesn't wrong nor oppress. So, His slaves fear not injustice from Him.

¹² The Holy Qur'an; Consultation 42 : 11

¹³ The Holy Qur'an; Abraham 14 : 27

¹⁴ The Holy Qur'an; The Prophets 21 : 23

¹⁵ The Holy Qur'an; The Big Stars 85 : 16

¹⁶ Hadith; Narrated by Imam Muslim

¹⁷ The Holy Qur'an; The Women 4:40

“And Allah judges, there is none to put back His Judgment and He is Swift at reckoning.” ¹⁸

The Mercy of Allah

Another matter is that His Mercy prevails. Allah isn't in need of torturing or punishing any one, but He has set rules and laws. And because of His justice, He treats the wrong doers with punishment.

“What would Allah do out of punishing you; if you are grateful and believe? And Allah is Ever All - Appreciative, All Knowing.” ¹⁹

Allah is the Initiator of the Universe. He sets the rules. No one can come later to overwrite His rules. Only He can do so. So the rules are simple:

“If you believe in Me, and My messengers and you follow the guidance I have sent, you live by it then you will enjoy My Mercy and Reward.

“If you reject Me, and My messengers and you follow other paths, you will be punished and tortured by Me.”

These are the rules. As a human, you have a choice to make. It isn't a difficult one.

When you choose the first one, you have to work hard to try and abide by it. If you fall short, then Allah will deal with

you in the way you deserve according to the time period you live, the place you are and the conditions surrounding you.

He gives you this to comfort you:

The Prophet ﷺ said: “When Allah decreed the Creation He pledged Himself by writing in His book which is laid down with Him: My Mercy prevails over My Anger.” ²⁰

“Say: ‘To whom belongs all that is in the heavens and the earth?’ Say: ‘To Allah. He has ordained Mercy on Himself’.” ²¹

The Knowledge of Allah

He is the Knower of all things. He knows the secret and that which is yet more hidden.

He knows what has happened, and what is yet to happen. And that which hasn't happened; if it did how it would have been.

“And with Him are the keys of the Unseen. None knows them but He. And He knows whatever there is in (or on) the earth and in the sea; not a leaf falls, but He knows it. There is not a grain in the darkness of the

¹⁸ The Holy Qur'an; Thunder 13 : 41

¹⁹ The Holy Qur'an; Women 4 : 147

²⁰ Hadith: Narrated by Imam Muslim

²¹ The Holy Qur'an; The Cattle 6 : 12

earth nor anything fresh or dry, but is written in a Clear Record.”²²

He is Ever Present who is always watching and hearing. It is hard for the simple human brain to comprehend this, but that is because the human brain is designed in a limited manner. But Allah witnesses everyone doing their things, at the same time. And He is aware of all of them. Because He is free from the constraints of time, unlike the creation, who are can only be at one place in one scenario at any one time. Glorified be He.

‘Say: “What thing is the most great in witness?” Say: “Allah is Witness between me and you”.’²³

He is All-Hearing All-Seeing. He hears the combined (mixed) sounds with different languages with their different needs. And He sees the movement of the black ant on the solid rock in the dark night.

His hearing has encompassed all the hearing. And His vision has encompassed all the sights. His knowledge all the pieces of information. His powers all other abilities. His will has ordained all the creation. His Mercy has covered all the creation.

There is nothing that can overwhelm Him.

He is able to do all things. Nothing tires Him. This is because He has the power to do everything, everything is dependent on Him, everything is easy for Him, and He does not need anything.

A common misconception or misunderstanding by people is related to the issue of predestination. How does Allah know the future? How does He know my actions, my provisions, when I will die and so on?

It can be very simply understood, by knowing that Time – itself – is a creation of Allah. Allah is independent of Time, because He created it. And as mentioned before Allah doesn’t dwell in His creation.

So, if you think of Time as an object - which Allah has created - then you can understand that Allah sees the whole of Time. He sees its beginning as He sees its end. Our existence falls in this time frame. So, all our actions are there displayed in front of His Majesty.

From this understanding, we can understand that Allah is the First, where there is nothing before Him and He is the Last, where there is nothing after Him. He is the Eternal without a beginning and enduring without end.

“He is the First and the Last.”²⁴

²² The Holy Qur’an; The Cattle 6 : 59

²³ The Holy Qur’an; The Cattle 6 : 19

²⁴ The Holy Qur’an: Iron 57 : 3

The Will of Allah

Nothing happens except what He wills.

Everything happens according to His degree and will, and His will is accomplished. The only will that people have is what He wills for them. What He wills for them occurs and what He does not will, does not occur.

He gives guidance to whomever He wills, and protects them, and keeps them safe from harm, out of His generosity; and He leads astray whomever He wills, and abases them, and afflicts them, out of His justice.

All of them are subject to His Will between either His generosity or His justice.

No one can ward off His decree or put back His command or overpower His affairs.

”If He wills, He can take you away, O people, and bring others. And Allah is Able to do that.”²⁵

He speaks giving orders and prohibitions. He speaks the Truth, and guides to the Path. He sends messengers and reveals the Books. He sustains every soul with that of what it attains of good and bad. He rewards good with good and bad with it's like.

²⁵ The Holy Qur'an; Women 4 : 133

He is the truthful in His promise and news. There is no one who is more truthful in His speech and no words better than His Words. And He doesn't break His promises.

He is the Divine and Holy, Giver of Peace.

He is free from any deficiencies

He is the Eternal who will never perish or come to an end. He is the Ever living who will never cease nor does He die.

Rather, He causes death with no fear and restores to life without difficulty. He is the giver of life and He is the One who takes it.

He doesn't change, nor does He alter. No disease or illness befalls Him. Nor does ageing, illness, slumber, sleep, forgetfulness, sorrow, fear, worry or regret affect Him.

He doesn't need sleep, because sleep is a creation and it is the minor death. Nor does the initiation of sleep affect Him: that is slumber.

“Allah! None has the right to be worshipped but He. (He is) The Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. Neither slumber, nor sleep overtake Him.”²⁶

How can He sleep? If He were to sleep, who would maintain the Heavens and the Earth?

He is Absolute Complete Perfect Being from all aspects.

He is free from any short-comings or deficiency.

The Creation

He created creation with His knowledge; and He appointed destinies for those He created. He allotted to them fixed life spans. Nothing about them was hidden from Him before He created them, and He knew everything that they would do before He created them.

He ordered them to obey Him and forbade them to disobey Him.

He has always existed together with His attributes since before creation. Bringing creation into existence did not add anything to His attributes that was not already there. As He was, together with His attributes, in pre-eternity, so He will remain throughout endless time.

It was not only after the act of creation that He could be described as 'the Creator' nor was it only by the act of origination that He could be described as 'the Originator'.

He was always the Lord even when there was nothing to be Lord of, and always the Creator even when there was no creation.

In the same way that He is the 'Bringer to life of the dead', after He has brought them to life a first time, and deserves this name before bringing them to life, so too He deserves the name of 'Creator' before He has created them.

Some of His creation have been created with free will and choice; like humans and jinn. This means that they will be tested by Allah in the life that they live. Whoever believes, does good works and displays good character will be rewarded by Allah the Almighty. And whoever doesn't, then they will have to be responsible for their decision

²⁶ The Holy Qur'an; The Cow 2 : 255