



How the Jahmiyyah Denied Istiwaa & ‘Uluww

(Compiled by Abu Muhammad Yahya)

1. They rejected Allah’s Highness (‘Uluww).

They claimed that Allah is not above the heavens or distinct from creation, arguing that affirming His Highness would mean He is confined to a place (makaan) like created beings.

Instead, they said, “Allah is everywhere by His essence.”



2. They reinterpreted Istiwaa metaphorically.

Instead of affirming that Allah rose over the Throne in a manner befitting Him, they claimed *istiwa* means:

- *Isteelaa* (استيلاء) – meaning “conquering” or “taking control,” not an actual rising.
- Other philosophical explanations to avoid affirming Allah’s Highness.

3. They opposed the clear Quranic texts and the belief of the Salaf.

- The Quran affirms *istiwa* in multiple places (e.g., Surah Taha 20:5, Surah Al-A’raf 7:54), and the Salaf unanimously agreed that it is real but without asking how (bi la kayf).
- The Jahmiyyah rejected this understanding, leading to severe opposition from the Salaf, including Imam Ahmad and others.

Why the Salaf Strongly Opposed the Jahmiyyah Sect

- Their denial led to extreme deviations like Wahdatul-Wujood (Unity of Existence), where some later sects claimed that there is no distinction between the Creator and creation.
- The Salaf declared them deviants because their belief ultimately led to denying the existence of Allah as a real, separate being.
- Imam Ibn al-Mubarak, Imam Ahmad, and others refuted them severely, warning that their ideas would destroy the correct Islamic creed.

Conclusion

The Jahmiyyah denied that Allah’s *Istiwa* is real and tried to explain it away with metaphorical interpretations. This was completely rejected by the Salaf, who affirmed Allah’s Highness and *Istiwa* as true while leaving its exact nature to Allah.