

Fast 28: The Oneness of God — 2

- Since the Holy Prophet Muhammad's mission was to establish belief in the oneness of God, it is this to which he invited people of other religions:

“Say: O People of the Book, come to an equitable word between us and you, **that we shall serve none but Allah and that we shall not set up any partner with Him, and that some of us shall not take others for lords besides Allah.** But if they turn away, then say: Bear witness, we are Muslims.” (3:64)

قُلْ يَا هَلْ أَنْكُتِبِ تَعَالَوْا إِلَى كَلِمَةٍ سَوَاءٍ
بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ أَلَّا نَعْبُدَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ وَلَا نُشْرِكَ
بِهِ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَتَّخِذَ بَعْضُنَا بَعْضًا أَرْبَابًا مِنْ
دُونِ اللَّهِ فَإِنْ تَوَلَّوْا فَقُولُوا اشْهَدُوا بِأَنَّا
مُسْلِمُونَ ﴿٦٤﴾

Here *the crux of what Islam is trying to achieve* is explained, rather than simply asking people to accept the Holy Prophet Muhammad and become Muslims. It is that:

(1) Only the One God should be worshipped and have prayers addressed only to Him. There must be no worship of idols, trees, animals, tombs, heavenly bodies, forces of nature, or human beings who are supposed to be demi-gods or gods or incarnations of God or sons or daughters of God.

(2) The attributes of God must not be ascribed to anyone or anything else, for example beliefs of the kind that God has delegated His powers to other agencies or beings to act for Him.

(3) No one other than God is to be taken as the absolute and unconditional authority to be obeyed.

This is what Islam requires of mankind. It is a different matter that it was only the Holy Prophet Muhammad who provided the fullest and best evidence for these beliefs, and to hold these beliefs in their proper sense a person needs to follow him.

- The Quran tells us that every person, when in distress and unable to find a way out, turns to the One God only, forgetting everything else:

“And when distress afflicts you in the sea, **away go those whom you call on except He;** but when He brings you safe to the land, you turn away. And man is ever ungrateful.” (17:67)

وَإِذَا مَسَّكُمُ الضُّرُّ فِي الْبَحْرِ ضَلَّ مَنْ تَدْعُونَ
إِلَّا آيَاهُ فَلَمَّا نَجَّكُمْ إِلَى الْبَرِّ أَعْرَضْتُمْ وَ
كَانَ الْإِنْسَانُ كَفُورًا ﴿٦٧﴾

“Say: See, if the punishment of Allah overtake you or the hour come upon you, will you call on others than Allah, if you are truthful? No, Him you call upon, so He removes that (distress) for which you pray, if He pleases, and **you forget what you set up as partners** (with Him).” (6:40–41)

قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ إِنْ أَنْتُمْ عَذَابَ
اللَّهِ أَوْ أَتَتْكُمُ السَّاعَةُ أَغَيْرَ اللَّهِ
تَدْعُونَ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ ﴿٤٠﴾
بَلْ إِلَٰهَاهُ تَدْعُونَ فَيَكْشِفُ مَا
تَدْعُونَ إِلَيْهِ إِنْ شَاءَ وَتَنْسَوْنَ
مَا تَشْرِكُونَ ﴿٤١﴾

- Those other than God which are worshipped are powerless to do anything:

“O people, a parable is set forth, so listen to it. Surely those whom you call upon besides Allah cannot create a fly, though they should all gather for it. And if the fly carry off anything from them, they cannot take it back from it. **Weak are (both) the invoker and the invoked.**” (22:73)

أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ ضَرْبٌ مَثَلٌ فَاسْتَمِعُوا لَهُ ۗ إِنَّ
الَّذِينَ تَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ لَنْ يَخْلُقُوا ذُبَابًا
وَلَوْ اجْتَمَعُوا لَهُ ۗ وَإِنْ يَسْلُبْهُمُ الذُّبَابُ شَيْعًا
لَا يَسْتَنْقِذُوهُ مِنْهُ ۗ ضَعُفَ الطَّالِبُ وَ
الْمَطْلُوبُ ﴿٧٣﴾

“...And those whom you call upon besides Him own not a straw. If you call on them, they do not hear your call; and if they heard, they could not answer you....” (35:13–14)

... وَالَّذِينَ تَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِهِ مَا
يَمْلِكُونَ مِنْ قِطْمِيرٍ ﴿١٣﴾ إِنْ
تَدْعُوهُمْ لَا يَسْمَعُوا دُعَاءَكُمْ ۖ وَ
لَوْ سَمِعُوا مَا اسْتَجَابُوا لَكُمْ ۗ ...
أَيُّشْرِكُونَ مَا لَا يَخْلُقُ شَيْعًا وَهُمْ
يُخْلَقُونَ ﴿١٤﴾ وَلَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ
لَهُمْ نَصْرًا وَلَا أَنْفُسُهُمْ يَنْصُرُونَ
﴿١٥﴾

“Do they set up (as gods) that which has not created anything, while they are themselves created? And they cannot give them help, nor can they help themselves.” (7:191–192)

- Even the great men mistakenly taken for gods were powerless:

“They indeed disbelieve who say: Surely, Allah — He is the Messiah, son of Mary. Say: Who then could control anything as against Allah if He wished to destroy the Messiah, son of Mary, and his mother and all

لَقَدْ كَفَرَ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ ابْنُ
مَرْيَمَ ۗ قُلْ فَمَنْ يَمْلِكُ مِنَ اللَّهِ شَيْعًا إِنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ
يُهْلِكَ الْمَسِيحَ ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ وَأُمَّهُ وَمَنْ فِي

those on the earth? And Allah's is the kingdom of the heavens and the earth and all that is between them. He creates what He pleases. And Allah is Powerful over all things." (5:17)

الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا ۗ وَ لِلَّهِ مُلْكُ السَّمٰوٰتِ وَ
الْأَرْضِ وَ مَا بَيْنَهُمَا ۗ يَخْلُقُ مَا يَشَآءُ ۗ وَاللَّهُ
عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ ﴿١٧﴾

Here it is stated that God's power extends over Jesus and Mary, as it does over everyone else. No matter how great, and how beloved of God, someone might be, they do not acquire the attributes of God and remain His creation, subject to the laws that govern His creation.

This is why the Quran says: "The Messiah, son of Mary, was only a messenger — messengers had indeed passed away before him. And his mother was a truthful woman. They both used to eat food." (5:75), and also: "And Muhammad is but a messenger — messengers have already passed away before him. If then he dies or is killed, will you turn back upon your heels?" (3:144)