

Chapter – 60

Prostration for Respect

(سجدة تعظيبي)

❖ قَالَ مَا مَنَعَكَ أَلَّا تَسْجُدَ إِذْ أَمَرْتُكَ قَالَ أَنَا خَيْرٌ مِّنْهُ خَلَقْتَنِي مِنْ نَّارٍ وَخَلَقْتَهُ مِنْ طِينٍ -

Allah said, “What prevented you from prostrating (Sajdah), when I commanded you to do so”? He (Iblis) said, “I am better than he (Adam), You created me from fire and You created him from clay”. (07:12)

❖ وَإِذْ قُلْنَا لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ اسْجُدُوا لِآدَمَ فَسَجَدُوا إِلَّا إِبْلِيسَ أَبَى -

And when We (Allah) commanded the angels, “Prostrate before Adam”, so they all prostrated, except Iblis; he refused. (20:116)

Dear People! What is Prostration (سجده)? This is an expression of humbleness. Its complete display is keeping your head down to earth. In the past, different periods had different ways of Prostration. Islamic Prostration consists of touching of 7 parts of the body to earth. These are: (1) Forehead (2) Right hand (3) Left hand (4) Right knee (5) Left knee (6) Right feet and (7) Left feet.

Whether this Prostration is polytheism (شرك)? Yes! Of course! Prostration for worship is certainly polytheism. It means, keeping your head down to earth for worship other than Allah سبحانه و تعالی is obviously polytheism.

In front of elders, bowing your head down with a feeling of respect is ‘Prostration for Admiration’. Angels did prostrate to Adam as Prostration for Admiration. Brothers of Prophet Yousuf عليه السلام also did prostrate in his admiration.

Polytheism (شرك) remained prohibited in the past all periods. Their Prostration is a proof that prostration is different thing and polytheism is different. Polytheism is an attribute of your heart. Until the heart never thinks of any divinity then there will be no polytheism.

People consider bowing in respect in front of elders as sin and say it as polytheism. They should see and consider the Quranic Verses. For parent Quran says:

وَاحْفَظْ لَهُمَا جَنَاحَ الدُّلِّ

{ And lower your wing humbly for them (17:24) }

Does it mean that God has given teachings of polytheism?

Look! When people saw the Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم they kissed his hands. They kissed his feet too. It is very sad to say that these people did not understand to the Kneeling down (ركوع), or to the Prostration (سجده). These people did not understand to the Polytheism (شرك) or to the Innovation (بدعة). I always write that Polytheism is a name of belief and not of action. Until you decide for worship and do not believe a man to be a God and his existence is on his own, how come there would be any Polytheism. I believe that such people are rude, arrogant and good for nothing.

با ادب بالنصیب، بے ادب بے نصیب

بے ادب بے نصیب، با ادب بالنصیب

(Those who do not respect others will see a bad fate;
those who value others will have a good destiny).

Dear People! Simply bowing down is not prostration. And neither putting head on elder's feet is prostration. Nevertheless, earlier this was allowed, but now it has been forbidden. Our Noble Prophet has shown his disagreement with the 'Prostration for Admiration'. He has made it impermissible because it is "Suspicion of Polytheism". It is near to the "Worship of Semblances". Therefore one has to be very careful in this matter. After all, there should be something specific for Allah سبحانه و تعالیٰ.

In Prostration there is extreme humbleness. For this we put down our head on earth. As such, now no one can go to this level for 'Prostration for Admiration'. If anybody does he will be doing a sinful act. He will disobey to God and his Noble prophet.

Prohibition of Prostration is a known fact. Those people who affiliate the matter of ‘Prostration for Admiration’ with religious elders are not correct. The religious elders never dared to disobey the Noble Prophet. They always kept in front of them and acted upon the following Verses of Quran:

أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ

{O people who believe! Obey Allah and the Noble Messenger.
(04:59)}

And

وَمَا آتَاكُمُ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ فَانْتَهُوا

{And accept whatever the Noble Messenger gives you;
and refrain from whatever he forbids you. (59:07)}

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