



Sharh Aqeedat ul-Waasitiyyah

Shaykh Salih al-Fawzaan

Trans. Abu 'Iyaad Amjad Rafiq

Part 7: Ilhaad and the Negation of Takyif, Tamthil

Text:

وَلَا يُلْحَدُونَ فِي أَسْمَاءِ اللَّهِ وَآيَاتِهِ، وَلَا يُكَيِّفُونَ وَلَا يُمَثِّلُونَ صِفَاتِهِ بِصِفَاتِ خَلْقِهِ.

And they do not deviate with regard to Allaah's Names and His Signs [by denying them or holding on to deviant and heretical ideas about them]. They do not enquire into the exact nature of His Attributes and neither do they make comparisons between His attributes and the attributes of His creation.

Explanation:

(And they do not deviate with regard to Allaah's Names and His Signs by denying them or holding on to deviant and heretical ideas about them)...). Ilhaad in the language means bending and turning away from something. From it comes lahd which is the niche in the side of the grave into which a muslim is placed . It has been named as such due to its deviation towards the side of the grave. Ilhaad with respect to Allaah's Names and His Signs means deviating and turning away from their realities and their correct meanings towards falsehood. Ilhaad is of numerous types:

The First: When idols are given the Names of Allaah such as the derivation of al-Laah from al-Ilaah, al-Uzzaa from al-Azeez and Munaat from al-Mannaan.

The Second: Naming Him, far is He from all imperfections and Exalted, with what does not befit Him such as the name which the Christians give him, Father, or what the philosophers call Him, the Causer or Prime Mover.

The Third: Describing Him, far is He from all imperfections and Exalted, with what does not free Him of defects and shortcomings such as the saying of the Jews:

Indeed Allaah is poor (needy) and we are rich [Aali Imraan 3:181]

and also their saying:

The hand of Allaah is tied [Maa'idah 5:64]

and that He rests on the sabbath. Exalted is He above what they say.

The Fourth: Refusing and denying their meanings and their realities such as the saying of the Jahmiyyah that these attributes are but mere words which do not compromise characteristics nor meanings. To them, the name as-Samee' does not give evidence for the characteristic of hearing, al-Baseer does not give evidence for seeing and al-Hayy does not give evidence for life

The Fifth: Likening His characteristics with those of the creation such as the saying of a mumaththil (one who likens Allaah to the creation): His hand is like my hand and other such similar statements. Exalted is Allaah above such things.

Allaah has threatened those who commit Ilhaad in His Names and Signs with a very strong warning. He said:

And to Allaah belong the Most Beautiful of Names therefore, call upon Him with them and leave alone those who deny and utter false imputations against His Names. Soon will they be requited for what they used to do. [A'raaf 7:180]

He also said:

Verily those who turn away from Our Signs (by attacking, distorting and denying them) are not hidden from Us. [Fussilat 41:40]

(...They do not enquire into the exact nature of His Attributes and neither do they make comparisons between His attributes and the attributes of His creation.) The meaning of takyeef and tamtheel has been explained previously.