

POWER OF ALLAH : IS IT LIMITED OR ABSOLUTE?

What is the magnitude of the power of Allah? Can there very be any limit or restriction to this power over anything in this world?

Initially let us ponder over the following ayat of the holy Quran:

“ Wa maa min daabatin ilaa haawaa aaghidhun binasiyatihā ” (surah Hud v.56)

There is no living creature but He (Allah) holds it by it's forelock (lock of hair in the forehead)

According to the comment by Yusuf Ali in his English translation of the Holy Qura'n , the word **“Aaghidhun binaasiyatihā”** grasp of the forelock-an Arabic idiom- refers to the horse's forelock. The one who grasps it and holds it has a complete power over the horse, and for the horse, the forelock is as it were the crown of his beauty, the sum of his power of self assertion.

So in the foregoing ayat, the meaning conveyed is that God's power over all creatures is unlimited and no one can escape his decree.

In affirming our belief in the existence of Allah, we have to accept him with absolute perfection in his power and control over everything that he has created. No aspect nor any deficiency which we at times witness in human beings can ever be attributed to or ever thought of in Allah.

To understand the supreme power of Allah, let us for a moment consider our own life. All the power and strength in our body and the movement of its organs are as a result of life maintaining soul within our bodies. It is this soul that provides strength to our hand to move, eyes to see, ears to hear and mind to think and take decisions. But we do not see it because it has an over power over our existence.

Similarly, we reason that Almighty Allah is an absolute and perfect power over everything. How beautifully has this fact been explained in Nahjul Balahga by Ali bin Abi Talib a.s. where he says: **“Wal A'liyul a'a laa kulli shaiun minha bijalaalihi wa I'zzatihā”** *Allah is he who has the power over everything by virtue of his sublimity and dignity.*

“Walaa yu'jizuhu shaiun minha dhalbah” *Nothing on earth that he may ask for can defy him*

“ Walaa yamtani' a'laihi fayaghlibah” *Nor does it oppose him so as to can overpower him*

“Walaa yafuutihussariiu' minhaa fabasuquihī” *No swift footed creature can run away from him so as to suppress him.*

One can escape from another one when chased if he was clever enough and fast in running. But none can run away from the power and hold of Almighty Allah. For verily everything is fully under his grasp and hold.

Referring to this Ali Bin Abi Talib a.s adds: **“Ghazaa'til ashiaau lahu wa dhallat mustakiinatan lia'dhamatih”** *All things bow to him and are humble before his greatness*

“Laatastatiiu’l haraba min sultanihi fatamtania’ min nafi’hi wa dharrihi” *They cannot flee away from his authority to somewhere else in order to escape his benefit or his harm* (Khutba 185)

It is narrated that Prophet Sulaiman a.s. was endowed with such a kingdom in this world that his control and hold was not only over human beings but extended over jinn and over all creatures. Everything was at his service. Even the air was under his control and at his service.

With such a power and influence at his disposal the prophet one day exhausted from his administrative duties, withdrew to his chamber for rest. Suddenly a young beautiful man appeared before him. Surprisingly Prophet Suleiman asked him: “Who are you who managed to enter my chamber despite closed doors and who is that who led you to come here?” In reply the young man said: “Allah who commanded me to come to you and for such a command, there is no need for a key to open a door nor permission for anybody is necessary.”

Hazrat Suleiman then asked him who he was. He replied: ‘I am Israel, the angel of death and I have come to take away your life. There can be no delay in this matter.’

Thus we all see how the soldiers of Allah are able to intrude into any house even if the doors were strongly locked. No one, however, powerful he may be, has any way to escape from the presence and hold of Almighty Allah.