Hadith Three

The Right of Allāh over His Servants

عَنْ مُعَاذِ بْنِ جَبَلٍ رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: كُنْتُ رَدِيفَ رَسُول اللهِ ﷺ عَلَى حِمَارٍ، فَقَالَ لِي: «يَا مُعَاذُ تَدْرِي مَا حَقُّ اللهِ عَلَى الْعِبَادِ وَمَا حَقُّ الْعِبَادِ عَلَى اللهِ؟» قُلْتُ: اللهُ وَرَسُولُهُ أَعْلَمُ. قَالَ: «فَإِنَّ حَقَّ اللهِ عَلَى الْعِبَادِ أَنْ يَعْبُدُوا الله وَلَا يُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا، وَحَقُّ الْعِبَادِ عَلَى اللهِ أَنْ لَا يُعَذِّبَ مَنْ لَا يُشْرِكُ بِهِ شَيْئًا». قُلْتُ: يَا رَسُولَ اللهِ، أَفَلَا أُبَشِّرُ النَّاسَ؟ قَالَ: «لَا تُبَشِّرْهُمْ فَيَتَّكِلُوا.»

Muʿādh ibn Jabal, may Allāh be pleased with him, said:

I was riding behind the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ on a donkey when he said to me, "O Muʿādh do you know the right of Allāh over His servants and the right of the servants over Allāh?"

I said, "Allāh and His Messenger know best."

He said, "The right of Allāh over His servants is that they worship Him and do not associate anything with Him, and the right of the servants over Allāh is that He does not punish whoever does not associate anything with Him."

I said, "O Messenger of Allāh, should I not give the people these glad tidings?"

He said, "Do not give them these glad tidings for they will rely upon it."

(Reported by al-Bukhārī, Muslim, al-Tirmidhī, Ibn Mājah and Aḥmad)

Hadith Four

The Prohibition of Seeking Blessings from Trees and the Like

عَنْ أَبِي وَاقِدٍ اللَّيْثِيِّ رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: خَرَجْنَا مَعَ رَسُولِ اللهِ ﷺ إِلَى حُنَيْنٍ، وَنَحْنُ حُدَثَاءُ عَهْدٍ بِكُفْرٍ، وَكَانَتْ لِلْكُفَّارِ سِدْرَةٌ يَعْكُفُونَ عِنْدَهَا وَيَنُوطُونَ بِهَا أَسْلِحَتَهُمْ، يُقَالُ لَهَا ذَاتُ أَنْوَاطٍ، فَمَرَرْنَا بِسِدْرَةٍ، فَقُلْنَا: يَا رَسُولَ اللهِ، اجْعَلْ لَنَا ذَاتَ أَنْوَاطٍ. فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللهِ ﷺ:

«اللهُ أَكْبَرُ إِنَّهَا السُّنَنُ قُلْتُمْ وَالَّذِي نَفْسِي بِيَدِهِ، كَمَا قَالَ بَنُو إِسْرَائِيلَ لِمُوسَى: ﴿ٱجْعَل لَّنَآ إِلَٰهًا كَمَا لَهُمْ ءَالِهَةٌۚ قَالَ إِنَّكُمْ قَوْمٌ تَجْهَلُونَ﴾ لَتَرْكَبُنَّ سَنَنَ مَنْ قَبْلَكُمْ.»

Abū Wāqid al-Laythī, may Allāh be pleased with him, said:

We set out with the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ for Ḥunayn, and we were new to Islam, having only recently left disbelief. The disbelievers had a lote tree beside which they would stay in devotion and upon which they would hang their weapons. It was called Dhāt Anwāṭ. We passed by a lote tree and said, "O Messenger of Allāh, designate for us a Dhāt Anwāṭ."

The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

"Allāh is the Greatest! These are indeed the ways of those who came before you! By the One in Whose Hand is my soul, you have said just as the Children of Israel said to Mūsā, **'Make for us a god, just as they have gods.' He said, 'Indeed, you are a people behaving ignorantly.'** [al-Aʿrāf 7:138] You will surely follow the ways of those who came before you."

(Reported by Aḥmad, al-Tirmidhī, who graded it authentic, ʿAbd al-Razzāq, Ibn Jarīr, Ibn al-Mundhir, Ibn Abī Ḥātim and al-Ṭabarānī with a similar wording)