

The Quran and its Message

The articles on this website may be reproduced freely as long as the following source reference is provided:
Joseph A Islam www.quransmessage.com

سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ

Salamun Alaikum (Peace be upon you)

IDOLATRY ACCORDING TO THE QURAN

Joseph A. Islam

Copyright © 2009 Joseph A Islam: Article last modified 6th April 2012

Many Muslims incorrectly assume that idol worship is restricted to worshipping statues or simply attributing other Gods with the Lord Almighty.

Although statue worship and attributing other forms of deities with God is **no doubt** a form of idolatry, limiting it to this understanding is untenable from the Quran's perspective. Idol worship from the Quran's perspective can take many forms.

Here are some examples:

(1) ONE'S OWN EGO AND DESIRE AS AN IDOL

025.043

"Have you seen him who takes his desires (passion, impulse, lust) **(Arabic: Hawahu)** for his God **(Arabic: Illahahu)**? Will you then be a protector over him?"

Hawahu

أَرَأَيْتَ مَنْ اتَّخَذَ إِلَهَهُ هَوَاهُ

Illahahu

(2) INTERCESSORS AS IDOLS

010:018

"They serve, besides God, things that hurt them not nor profit them, and they say: "These are our intercessors with God." Say: "Do ye indeed inform God of something He knows not, in the heavens or on earth? Glory to Him! and far is He above the partners they ascribe (to Him)!""

(3) WORSHIP OF DEAD SAINTS AND PROPHETS AS IDOLATRY

016.020-21

"Those whom they invoke besides God create nothing and are themselves created. (They are things) dead, lifeless: nor do they know when they will be raised up"

018:102

"Do the Unbelievers think that they can take My servants as protectors besides Me? Verily We have prepared Hell for the Unbelievers for (their) entertainment"

017.056-57

"Say: "Call on those - besides Him - whom you fancy: they have neither the power to remove your troubles from you nor to change them." Those whom they call upon do desire (for themselves) means of access to their Lord which of those who are nearest and they hope for His Mercy and fear His Wrath: for the Wrath of thy Lord is something to take heed of"

Prophets would never have allowed any form of idolatry and would have asked their followers to study the scripture instead.

003.079

" It is not (possible) for any human that God should give him the Book and the wisdom and prophethood, then he should say to men: Be my servants rather than God's; but rather (he would say): Be worshippers of the Lord by virtue **of your teaching the Book and your reading (it yourselves)**"

003.080

"Nor would he instruct you to take angels and prophets for Lords and patrons. What! would he bid you to unbelief after ye have bowed your will (To God in Islam)?"

But people claim they are doing nothing wrong:

039:003

" Is it not to God that sincere devotion is due? But those who take for protectors other than God (say): "**We only serve them in order that they may bring us nearer to God.**" Truly God will judge between them in that wherein they differ. But God guides not such as are false and ungrateful"

Even though whom they seek help from are only servants and created beings like them:

007.194

"Indeed! those on whom you call beside God are slaves like you. Call on them now, and let them answer you, if ye are truthful!"

(4) TAKING JINNS AS IDOLS

006:100

“Yet they make the Jinns equals with God, though God did create the Jinns; and they falsely, having no knowledge, attribute to Him sons and daughters. Praise and glory be to Him! (for He is) above what they attribute to Him!”

(5) PROPERTY, GOODS AND ASSETS AS IDOLS

018:034

“And he had fruit. And he said to his comrade, when he spoke with him: I am more than you in wealth, and stronger in respect of men”

And finally (from verses 34 to 44), he realised what he had done which amounted to nothing short of idol worship.

018:042

So his fruits (and enjoyment) were encompassed (with ruin), and he remained twisting and turning his hands over what he had spent on his property, which had (now) tumbled to pieces to its very foundations, and he could only say, **"Woe is me! Would I had never ascribed partners to my Lord and Cherisher!"**

We clearly note how the man revelled in his wealth and status and thought that his bounty was beyond reproach. Rather than remembering His Lord who was his provider, he entered into a form of idolatry by directing his desire and worship towards his material wealth.

018:043-44

"Nor had he numbers to help him against God, nor was he able to deliver himself. There, the (only) protection comes from God, the True One. He is the Best to reward, and the Best to give success"

(6) HOLDING OTHER SOURCES OTHER THAN WHAT IS REVEALED AS IDOLS

006:019

Say: "What thing is most weighty in evidence?" Say: "God is witness between me and you; **This Quran has been revealed to me by inspiration, that I may warn you and all whom it reaches.** Can you possibly bear witness that besides God there is another God?" Say: "Nay! I cannot bear witness!" Say: "But in truth He is the one God, and I truly am innocent of (your blasphemy of) joining others with Him”

068:036

“What is the matter with you? How judge ye?”

068:037

“Or have ye a book through which ye learn”

068:038

“That ye shall have, through it whatever ye choose?”

(7) RELIGIOUS LEADERS, SCHOLARS AND REVERED PERSONALITIES AS IDOLS

009:031

“They have taken as lords beside God their Rabbis and their Monks and the Messiah son of Mary, when they were bidden to worship only One God. There is no God save Him. Be He Glorified from all that they ascribe as partner (unto Him)!”

FINAL THOUGHTS

Sadly most people don't realise when they enter idolatry thinking it is only restricted to statue worship. Setting up partners with God can come in many different guises according to the Quran.

Related Article:

- (1) [Severe Rebuke of Idolatry in the Old Testament and God's Jealousy](#)

[Joseph Islam](#)

© 2010 Quransmessage.com All Rights Reserved