

Al-Mu'minun [23:86]

قُلْ مَنْ رَبُّ السَّمَوَاتِ السَّبْعِ وَرَبُّ الْعَرْشِ الْعَظِيمِ



Say: "Who is the Lord of the seven heavens, and the Lord of the Throne (of Glory) Supreme?"

MUHAMMAD HUSAIN TABA TABAI (AR)

Say: Who is the Lord of the seven heavens and the Lord of the great throne?

God here orders His Messenger to ask the idolaters; *who is the Lord of the Great throne*; and He could have asked, "The seven heavens and the great Throne belong to whom?"

The answer to both the questions would be the same, Allah. The word used here is "Lillah" and not "Allah" as commentators have taken it to be. But Arsh here is the station from where all the decrees for the arrangement of the creations are issued. The word Rab according to the dictionary means "Owner" who has the powers and uses them...

Had the question been "Who is the owner of the earth" then the idolaters would not have given the same answer but when they are asked "Who is the owner of this earth and all that it contains?" Then, they reluctantly admit that it is God. They would do this because they believe it to be so.

So the word Rab is taken to be the owner. Suppose we ask, "Who is the Rab of the seven heavens and the earth?" They would admit it to be Allah though they have already designed separate gods for each of the stars and the earth. So. if they answer this question they will not say "It is all for God" but they will say that the ownership of the planets and the stars and earth belong to our different gods. Their answer here is not "Sayyaqunallah" for they will not say this because they will then be defeated in the argument.

On reflecting upon their whims and religions we find that they do not follow such tenets that is acceptable to all. The Sabeaens, the Brahmans and the Buddhists distribute the heavens and the earth in different gods. They have separate gods for the heavens, earth, rivers mountains, vegetations and minerals etc. They take these gods as their intercessors in the court of the Mighty God. So they make idols separately for each one of them and worship them as lesser gods. The idolaters are not united in their belief, each group has its separate sets of gods.

Yet some of them believe that the God of the heavens and the rivers is the Mighty God. In Surah Mumin, verse 37 it says, “ O Haman build me a tower so that I may arrive at the ways of the heavens and I may look upon Ilah the God of Moses.” He and his people believed that the God to which Musa invites them lives high in the heavens and He is its Lord and his angels exist below him.

Now they (The Sabaeaens and others) believe that there are separate gods for all the stars and planets etc. among the angels and the Jinns and it is they who look after each one of them separately, yet they say that it may be so but all these lesser gods are subservient to the God almighty.

This question was addressed to the idolating Arabs and this was their reply Therefore when they say “ Sayyaqunallah” they correct in saying so as you well understand.

If the question is addressed to those who believe that there re seperate gods for each existence in the heavens wherein exist the Jinns and the angels then they too agree that there is a station centralized for the commands being issued under the control of a single and mighty God, Allah.

This manifest universe like the unseen one has no gods but the One God. The question here means to ask them to answer who is the, creator, arranger, and sustainer of the entire heavens and though they have created lesser gods for separate creations they are unanimous in saying that the total control of it all lies with the One God. They will say Allah (then) you say, will you not fear Allah?

What the verse means here is that since they admit that the control, and sustenance of the entire creations in the heavens belongs to the One God who issues His decrees to administrate all then why do they take the risk of displeasing that One God? *Say, you deny Him, and consider Him to be a tale of yore, when the Prophets enjoin you to believe in Him you make fun of them and even kill them, while you know and admit that all the sustenance and arrangement is done from a station in the heavens known as Arsh.*

The word “Lillah” is a very fine point in the arguments because the Arab idolaters did not consider Allah to be the God but they believed Him to be the owner of all that existed. It was due to this that they had separate gods and they worshipped them.

MIR AHMED ALI (AR)

(no commentary available for this verse)