

ALLAH

as Viewed by the *Commander of the Faithful* Imam Ali (AS)

Two narrators, Muhammed ibn Abi Abdillah and Muhammed ibn Yahya, narrate a tradition related by Abu Abdullah Imam Jafar al-Sadiq citing the Commander of the Faithful Imam Ali ibn Abu Talib delivering a sermon once in order to solicit people's support in his second war against Muawiyah ibn Abu Sufyan. In it, the Commander of the Faithful says,

- ❖ All praise is due to Allah, the One and Only God Who is sought by all, the Unique
- ❖ One Who is neither created out of anything pre-existing, nor has He created anything out of something.
- ❖ Through His Might does He manifest Himself, and it is through His Might that anything manifests itself.
- ❖ None of His attributes can be fully comprehended, nor does He have any measure whereby He is compared.
- ❖ The tongue in any language is too crippled to describe His attributes,
- ❖ and the circumlocution of His attributes leads into nowhere but a blind alley.
- ❖ The sharpest of intellects are too puzzled to comprehend His kingdom;
- ❖ all comprehensive explanations are rendered short of delving into His kingdom.
- ❖ Unknown curtains obstruct the understanding of the lowest levels of His hidden knowledge,
- ❖ and the keenest insights are totally lost in comprehending the most (seemingly) superficial of His subtleties.

- ❖ So Glorified is Allah
- ❖ Who cannot be reached by the most ambitious of wills,
- ❖ nor can He be grasped by the deepest of insights.
- ❖ Exalted is He for Whom there is no measure of time,
- ❖ nor any fixed duration,
- ❖ nor any limited description.
- ❖ Praised is He Who has no beginning at all nor any end, nor any extinction.
- ❖ Glorified is He as He has described Himself.
- ❖ Those who attempt to describe Him can never do so.

- ❖ He delineated the boundaries of all things when He created them without having modelled them after any pre-existing models, thus distinguishing Himself from their similitude.
- ❖ Never has He resided in them, so it could be said that He is contained therein,
- ❖ nor has He been apart from them, so a place outside them could be sought for Him.
- ❖ Rather, He, all Praise is due to Him, encompassed them in His knowledge and perfected their design and computed them.
- ❖ Even things beyond the curtains of the atmosphere are never hidden from His knowledge,
- ❖ nor are those obscurities within the depth of the dark,
- ❖ nor are those in the high heavens,
- ❖ nor are those in the lowest layers of the earth:
- ❖ for each and every thing in them there is a custodian and a keeper,
- ❖ each one of them surrounds the others, while His knowledge encompasses them all.
- ❖ He is the One and Only God upon Whom all depend for their existence and subsistence,
- ❖ the One Whom the passage of time never alters, nor does the creation of things tire Him.
- ❖ Whatever He wills, He says to it, "Be!" and it is.
- ❖ He created everything without following a pre-existing model or a precedent,
- ❖ and without encountering any fatigue or a prior planning.
- ❖ Whoever makes something makes it out of something else, whereas Allah created everything out of nothing.
- ❖ Every scholar acquires knowledge after being ignorant,
- ❖ while Allah is never ignorant,
- ❖ nor has He ever acquired knowledge out of what He creates.
- ❖ He encompasses all things in His knowledge before creating them.
- ❖ Nothing is added to His knowledge because of their coming into existence:
- ❖ His knowledge is the same before and after He brought them into existence.
- ❖ He never created what He created in order to enhance His control,
- ❖ nor out of fear of its decay or loss,
- ❖ nor to seek help out of it against His adversary,
- ❖ nor to seek the upper hand over a progressive competitor,
- ❖ nor seeking to be the equal of a dominating partner;

- ❖ all creation is nurtured by Him; everyone and everything are humbled slaves before Him.
- ❖ Glorified is He Who never feels weary on account of creating what He creates,
- ❖ nor in nurturing whatever He creates,
- ❖ nor does He, out of inability or slackness, terminate what He creates.
- ❖ He knows what He creates and creates what He knows.
- ❖ Whatever He creates He creates neither out of deliberating on any new knowledge,
- ❖ nor does any doubt entertain Him on account of what He creates.
- ❖ Rather, He creates out of His inviolable decision, firm knowledge, and exact command.
- ❖ He made Himself unique in His Mastership,
- ❖ peerless in unity, grandeur, and sublimity.
- ❖ He remains peerless in praise and exalted in glory.
- ❖ He is far above parenthood, purified from and sanctified against any cohabitation.
- ❖ He is too Great and too Mighty to seek any partners.
- ❖ Thus, none among what He creates opposes Him,
- ❖ nor is there any equal peer like Him from among His possessions,
- ❖ nor is there any partner in His Kingdom.
- ❖ He is the One,
- ❖ the Unique,
- ❖ the One sought by all,
- ❖ the Eternal,
- ❖ the Everlasting,
- ❖ the Lord of the cosmos
- ❖ Who has always been and shall always be,
- ❖ the eternally all alone before the beginning of time and after the end of all affairs.
- ❖ He will never terminate nor expire.
- ❖ Thus do I describe my Lord;
- ❖ there is no god except Allah;
- ❖ Great is He and how Great!
- ❖ Glorified is He and how Glorified!
- ❖ Almighty is He and how Almighty!
- ❖ He is far above what the unjust ones say about Him, far, far above that!