

## The Prohibition of Cursing Predestination

Article taken and slightly adapted from: [alifta.gov.sa](http://alifta.gov.sa)

[Part No. 1; Page Nos. 146 - 148]

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

All praise be to Allaah Alone, and peace and blessings be upon the Last of the Prophets.

I have reviewed the story published in "Riyadh" magazine, issue no. 4887, dated 17/9/1401 A.H., in the social stories section, entitled: "The Cruelty of Predestination", which was written by Qumashah al-Ibrahim. In this story, the writer says: "We have no rights in this life. We are merely lives that predestination plays with. When it is bored with them, it throws them into the other world. Predestination sometimes plays with our tears and laughter."

These words are in complete contradiction to perfect Tawheed (belief in the Oneness of Allaah) and 'Eemaan (belief) in predestination. Predestination and time do not play. Everything that happens in this life is predestined and known by Allaah. It is Allaah (Exalted be He) Who controls the night and the day. He is the One who predestines happiness or misery according to what His Wisdom dictates. This wisdom may remain hidden from people, because their knowledge is limited and their minds are incapable (alone) of realising this Divine Wisdom. Everything in this world has been created by Allaah, by His Will and Might; whatever He wills happens, and whatever He does not will never happen. It is Allaah Who gives and withholds, lowers and raises, honours and dishonours, enriches and impoverishes, guides and leaves astray, and causes happiness or distress. He gives sovereignty to whom He wills and takes it away from whom He wills. He perfected everything which He created. There is deep wisdom behind all His Actions, Ordinances, and Prohibitions. They all have profound wisdom and good purposes for which He must be praised and shown gratitude, even if the wisdom and purposes remain unknown to humans due to their limited perception.

It was reported in the Two Saheeh (authentic) Books of Hadeeth (i.e. Al-Bukhaaree and Muslim) and others, on the authority of the Prophet (peace be upon him), that Allaah (Glorified and Exalted be He) said: **[The son of Aadam offends Me. He curses time, and I am Time. In My Hand are (all) matters. I alternate the night and the day.]**<sup>1</sup> In another narration: **[Do not curse Time. I am Time.]** In a third narration: **[The son of Aadam offends Me and says, 'Fie upon time!' Verily, I am Time. I alternate the night and the day. If I will, I may seize both.]**

<sup>1</sup> Narrated by al-Bukhaaree (4826) and Muslim (2246).

## The prohibition of cursing predestination

In Jahileeyyah (pre-Islamic time of ignorance) the Arabs would ascribe the calamities and hardships afflicting them to time, saying that they had been afflicted with the misfortunes of time or they had been destroyed by time. By attributing all their hardships to time, they were cursing the One Who made it. Consequently, they were cursing Allaah (Glorified and Exalted be He), as He is the Real Author of everything that they were ascribing to time. Therefore, they were forbidden to curse time. The explanation giving this meaning of the above-mentioned Hadeeth Qudsee (Revelation from Allaah in the Prophet's words) was reported from Al-Shaafi'ee, Aboo `Ubayd, Ibn Jareer, Al-Baghawee, and others.

As for the meaning of Allaah's Words: **["I alternate the day and the night,"]** they mean that whatever happens during them, whether good or evil, happens by Allaah's Will, Design, Knowledge and Wisdom, without partner or associate. Whatever He wills happens, and whatever He does not will never happen. Therefore, it is an obligation to thank Allaah (Exalted be He) in all circumstances and think well of Him. He should be praised and turned to in Tawbah (repentance to Allaah). Allaah (Exalted be He) says: **[...and We shall make a trial of you with evil and with good. And to Us you will be returned.]<sup>2</sup>**

The revivalist Imaam Muhammad ibn `Abdul-Wahhab (may Allaah be merciful to him) wrote a chapter in "Al-Tawheed" book entitled "Whoever Curses Time Offends Allaah", in which he discussed this Hadeeth Qudsee and showed that it included some important rules:

1. Cursing time is forbidden.
2. Cursing time is an offense to Allaah.
3. On contemplating His Words, it shows that Allaah is Time.
4. One may unintentionally say words that are tantamount to cursing time, and so be a curser.

Consequently, the writer (may Allaah forgive her) was mistaken when she ascribed cruelty to time in the title of her story, because predestination, as was mentioned above, does not work on its own. It is Allaah Who foreordains everything with Deep Wisdom. Allaah (Exalted and Glorified be He) cannot be described as cruel. He is Most Merciful to His servants. He is More Merciful to them than a mother to her child, as stated in the Hadeeth Saheeh: **[Verily, Allaah is more merciful to His servants than this woman is to her child.]<sup>3</sup>**

---

<sup>2</sup> Soorah al-Ambeeyaa [21:35]

<sup>3</sup> Umar ibn al-Khattaab reported: Some prisoners of war were brought to the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, and a nursing woman was among them. Whenever she found a child among the prisoners, she would take it to her chest and nurse it. The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said to us, "Do you think this woman would throw her child into the fire?" We said, "No, not if she was able to stop it." The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "Allaah is more merciful to His servants than this mother is to her child." [Source: Saheeh al-Bukhaaree 5999, Saheeh Muslim 2754]

## The prohibition of cursing predestination

It is, therefore, obligatory that writers should protect their pens from slipping into such pitfalls, in compliance with the Command of Allaah and that of His Messenger, so as to have perfect Tawheed, and distance themselves from all that may contradict it or mar its perfection. It is known that the media is widely circulated and has great influence on people. Repeating statements like these will spread them among people and lead them not to feel uneasiness about them, especially young people, despite being strictly forbidden to say.

We ask Allaah to guide us to the Straight Path and keep us safe from slips of the pen and tongue. Truly, He is All-Hearing of prayers and Ever-Responsive. May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, and upon his family and Companions.