

166843 - Affirmation that Allah has two feet

the question

I am a seeker of knowledge and I am confused: do we affirm that Allah has two feet, as is mentioned in the mawqoof hadeeth the isnaad of which ends with Ibn 'Abbaas, "The kursiy (foot stool) is the place of the feet"? Or do we affirm that Allah has one foot, as it says in the hadeeth: "... until the Lord of Glory places His foot in it (Hell)" (or, according to another report, "... His foot on it...")? If Allah has two feet, will Allah, may He be glorified and exalted, place both of His feet on Hell, taking into account the fact that the words of the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) "His foot" appears in the genitive (or possessive) and as we know, the genitive singular is general in meaning?

Detailed answer

One of the confirmed attributes of Allah, may He be glorified and exalted, is the foot.

The evidence for that is the report narrated by al-Bukhaari (6661) and Muslim (2848) from Anas ibn Maalik, according to which the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: "Hell will keep saying, 'Are there any more (to come)?' until the Lord of Glory, may He be blessed and exalted, places His foot on it, then it will say, 'Enough, enough, by Your glory!' And all its parts will be integrated together.

Al-Bukhaari (4850) and Muslim (2847) narrated that Abu

Hurayrah

(may Allah be pleased with him) said: The Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: "Hell and Paradise disputed, and Hell said: 'I have been favoured with the arrogant and proud.' Paradise said: 'What is the matter with me, that no one will enter me except the weak, humble and downtrodden?' Allah, may He be blessed and exalted, said to Paradise: 'You are My mercy by which I will show mercy to whomsoever I will of My slaves.' And He said to Hell: 'You are My punishment with which I will punish whomsoever I will of My slaves. And each of you will be full.' As for Hell, it will not be full until Allah, may He be blessed and exalted, places His foot on it and it says, 'Enough, enough.' Then it will be full and all its parts will be integrated together, and Allah will not treat any of His creation unjustly. As for Paradise, Allah will create a creation just for it."

This indicates

that it is confirmed that Allah, may He be exalted, has a foot.

Ibn 'Abbaas (may

Allah be pleased with him) said: "The Kursiy (foot stool) is the place of the two feet, and the size of Throne cannot be known."

This was narrated

by

Ibn Khuzaymah

in at-Tawheed,

1/248, no. 154; Ibn Abi Shaybah in al-'Arsh, 61; ad-Daarimi in

ar-Radd 'ala al-Muraysi; 'Abdullah ibn al-Imam Ahmad in

as-Sunnah;

and al-Haakim

in al-Mustadrak, 2/282 – he classed it as

saheeh

according to the conditions of the two

shaykhs

(al-Bukhaari and Muslim), and

adh-Dhahabi

agreed with him. It was also classed as

saheeh

by al-Albaani

in

Mukhtasar

al-‘Uluw,

p. 102; and by Ahmad Shaakir in ‘Umdat at-Tafseer, 2/163.

Abu

Moosa

al-Ash‘ari (may Allah be pleased with him) said: The Kursiy is the place for the two feet, and it creaks as a saddle creaks.

Narrated by

‘Abdullah ibn al-Imam Ahmad in as-Sunnah; Ibn Abu Shaybah in

al-‘Arsh, 60; and by Ibn Jareer, al-Bayhaqi and others. Its isnaad was

classed as saheeh in al-Fath, 8/47 and by al-Albaani in Mukhtasar

al-‘Uluw, p. 123-124

These two reports

confirm that Allah, may He be exalted, has two feet, and this is the belief of Ahl as-Sunnah.

Imam Abu 'Ubayd

al-Qaasim ibn Salaam (may Allah have mercy on him) said: These hadeeths which say that our Lord smiles at the despair of His slaves when things will soon change, and that Hell will not be filled until your Lord places His foot on it, and that the Kursiy is the place for the two feet – these hadeeths, as narrated, are true in our opinion; they were narrated from trustworthy narrators to other trustworthy narrators. But if we are asked about their meaning, we do not explain them, and we have never seen any scholar discuss their meanings.

Narrated by

al-Bayhaqi in al-Asma' wa's-Sifaat, 2/198; Ibn 'Abd al-Barr in at-Tamheed, 7/149

In Fataawa

al-Lajnah ad-Daa'imah (2/376) it says: What we must do is affirm that which Allah has affirmed for Himself, such as two hands, two feet, fingers and other attributes that are mentioned in the Qur'an and Sunnah, in a manner that is befitting to Allah, may He be glorified, without distorting the meaning, discussing how, likening Him to His creation or denying any of His attributes, because He, may He be glorified, says (interpretation of the meaning):

“Say (O Muhammad

(Peace be upon him)): “He is Allah, (the) One.

Allah-us-Samad

(The Self-Sufficient Master, Whom all creatures need, He neither eats nor drinks).

He begets not, nor

was He begotten;

And there is none
co-equal or comparable unto Him.”

[al-Ikhlaas
112:1-3]

“There is nothing
like unto Him, and He is the All-Hearer, the All-Seer”

[ash-Shoora 42:11].

So we take these
(attributes) as true in a real sense, not metaphorical. As for going to
extremes in affirming attributes that are not mentioned in the Qur’an or
sunnah, we have to refrain from doing so.

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‘Abd al-‘Azeez Aal ash-Shaykh, Saalih al-Fawzaan, ‘Abdullah ibn Ghadyaan,
‘Abd al-‘Azeez ibn ‘Abdullah ibn Baaz. End quote.

Shaykh ‘Abd
ar-Rahmaan al-Barraak (may Allah preserve him) said: This hadeeth confirms
that Allah, may He be glorified and exalted, has a foot. Ahl as-Sunnah
affirm that Allah has what is mentioned in this hadeeth in a true sense, as
they affirm all other divine attributes, as they affirm that He has two
hands and two eyes, and they say that He, may He be exalted, has two feet,
as is mentioned in the well-known report from Ibn ‘Abbaas that describes the
Kursiy (footstool) and says that it is the place for the feet – i.e., the
feet of the Lord, may He be glorified and exalted.

The view about the feet and hands is the same, and there is no room for differentiation.

End quote from
Sharh al-Waasitah, p. 172

What is proven is that Allah, may He be exalted, will place His foot on Hell. We believe in this but we stop at this point and refrain from going further (in discussion). We do not say that He will place both of His feet on it, just as we do not say that He wrote the Torah with His two hands. Rather we adhere to what has been narrated, because with regard to the divine attributes, the matter is based on tawqeef (i.e., limiting it only to what has been narrated in sound texts).

And Allah knows best.