

SEERAH (BIOGRAPHY) OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH)

LESSON:29 { IN ENGLISH }



Assalamu alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakaatuhu



SEERAH OF MUHAMMAD (SalAllahu alaihi wa sallam)



LESSON NO : 29



TOPIC:



Argument and Quibbling (continued).



ARGUMENT AND QUIBBLING

(CONTINUED)



The polytheists, then, strove to please such people who supposedly held high-ranking stations close to Allah. By pleasing these demigods, they reasoned, one could please Allah. The people conceived many ways to please these "friends of Allah."



For example, it was a common practice to build shrines over the graves of "saints" and "holy men." People would visit these monuments with the belief that by rubbing the walls of the shrine, or by walking around it several times, they would earn the favor of the person in whose honor it had been built. Some even made offerings of produce, goods, gold, and animal sacrifice. These offerings would be given to the shrine attendants, who would then place the objects before the graves or idols.



Generally, nothing could be offered directly without the aid of the attendants. However, animals were presented as offerings in a number of ways. Sometimes worshippers would leave the animals free in the name of some "holy man" in order to seek his pleasure. These animals would graze and roam about at will, revered by the people. Sometimes they carried the animal to the home of the "holy man" and had it slaughtered there.



This, however, was done in the name of the "holy man."

The polytheists would also organize a fair once or twice a year at shrines dedicated to certain individuals at which people gathered and performed the acts of worship and adoration mentioned above. Such fairs were often scheduled around the death anniversaries of these saints, and people would journey long distances to attend these gatherings.



All these acts of worship and adoration were performed in hopes of pleasing the dead "holy men," and winning their intercession. The pagans would address certain saints saying, "O father! Answer my request, and remove such and such hardship." The polytheists believed that the dead people that they prayed to could not only hear them, but could also answer their prayers with powers given to them by Allah, or by interceding with Allah.



Such were the practices of the pagans — associating partners with Allah by deifying human beings and inanimate objects even as they denied His power to resurrect His creation. It was in this citadel of polytheism that the Prophet (salAllahu 'alaihi wa sallam) was sent to preach the message of the One God, and to teach people of His Oneness. Many of the polytheists, however, viewed the message as unreasonable and untrue, and they clung to their own flawed beliefs about the nature of God.



"Has he made all of the gods into one god? This is something strange! ... We have not heard of any religion that has only one god. Surely, this is nothing but an

innovation!"



(38: 5-7)

To Be Continued...

