

21. The Prophets

1. ‘Ayyāshī reported with his chain of transmission, from al-Faṭḥ b. Yazīd al-Jurjānī who said, ‘I said to Abū al-Ḥasan al-Riḍā عليه السلام, “May I be your ransom – does the ever-Existing One, Glory be to Him, know how something non-existent would have been if it were to exist?”

He replied, “Woe betide you! Your query is not difficult. Have you not read His statement, Mighty and Exalted: ﴿If there had been in the heavens or earth any gods but Him, both heavens and earth would be in ruins﴾ and: ﴿each god would have taken his creation aside and tried to overcome the others.﴾^(23:91) He indeed knows about that which has never existed and will never exist, and how it would have been were it to have existed.” He also said, “He relays the statement of the miserable people: ﴿When death comes to one of them, he cries, ‘My Lord, let me return so as to make amends for the things I neglected.’ Never! This will not go beyond his words﴾^(23:99–100) and: ﴿Even if they were brought back, they would only return to the very thing that was forbidden to them– they are such liars!﴾^(6:28) So He knows full well how that which is non-existent would have been, for he is the all-Seeing, all-Hearing, all-Aware and Omniscient.” [21:22]

2. Abū ‘Amr al-Kashshī reported from Muḥammad b. Mas‘ūd saying, ‘Ishāq b. Muḥammad al-Baṣrī¹ narrated to me saying, “‘Abd Allāh b. Qāsim narrated to me from Khālīd al-Jawwān² who said, ‘Mufaḍḍal b. ‘Umar, some of our companions, and I were in Medina and had been discussing about God’s Lordship. So we said, “Let us go to Abū ‘Abd Allāh’s house so that we can ask

1 Ishāq b. Muḥammad al-Baṣrī, a companion of the ninth Imam accused of extreme beliefs (*ghuluww*). See Ḥillī, *Khulāṣat al-aqwāl*, 318 (nr. 1246).

2 Khālīd al-Jawwān, associate of Imam ‘Alī b. Mūsā al-Riḍā. His reliability as a narrator is not firmly established. See Ḥillī, *Khulāṣat al-aqwāl*, 137 (nr. 370).

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

سورة الأنبياء

١. روى العياشي بإسناده عن الفتح بن يزيد الجرجاني، قال: قلت لأبي الحسن الرضا عليه السلام:

جعلت فداك، يعرف القديم سبحانه الشيء الذي لم يكن أن لو كان كيف كان يكون؟
قال: ويحك إن مسألتك لصعبة، أما قرأت قوله عز وجل: ﴿لَوْ كَانَ فِيهِمَا آلِهَةٌ إِلَّا اللَّهُ لَفَسَدَتَا﴾ ﴿وَلَعَلَّ بَعْضُهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ﴾ لقد عرف الشيء الذي لم يكن ولا يكون أن لو كان كيف كان يكون، وقال يحكي قول الأشتياء: ﴿رَبِّ ارْجِعُونِ﴾ ﴿لَعَلِّي أَعْمَلُ صَالِحًا فِيمَا تَرَكْتُ﴾ ﴿كَلَّا إِنَّهَا كَلِمَةٌ هُوَ قَائِلُهَا﴾، وقال: ﴿وَلَوْ رُدُّوا لَعَادُوا لِمَا نُهُوا عَنْهُ وَإِنَّهُمْ لَكَاذِبُونَ﴾ فقد علم الشيء الذي لم يكن لو كان كيف كان يكون، وهو السميع البصير الخبير العليم.

٢. وروى أبو عمرو والكشي، عن محمد بن مسعود، قال: حدثني إسحاق ابن محمد البصري، قال:

حدثني عبد الله بن القاسم، عن خالد الجوان، قال: كنت أنا والمفضل بن عمر وناس من أصحابنا بالمدينة، وقد تكلمنا في الربوبية، قال، فقلنا: مروا إلى باب أبي عبد الله عليه السلام حتى نسأله، قال: فقمنا بالباب، قال: فخرج إلينا وهو يقول: ﴿بَلْ عِبَادٌ مُّكْرَمُونَ﴾ ﴿لَا يَسْبِقُونَهُ بِالْقَوْلِ وَهُمْ بِأَمْرِه يَعْمَلُونَ﴾.

him.” He continued, ‘So we stood by the door, and he came out to us saying: ﴿No! They are only His honoured servants: they do not speak before He speaks and they act by His command.﴾’ [21:26–27]

3. ‘Ayyāshī reported with his chain of transmission, from al-Ḥusayn b. ‘Alwān³ who said, ‘Abū ‘Abd Allāh ﷺ was asked about the taste of water, so he replied, “Ask to comprehend and not for the sake of challenging. The taste of water is the taste of life. God – Glory be to Him – says: ﴿We made every living thing from water﴾” [21:30]
4. ‘Ayyāshī reported with his chain of transmission, from al-Aṣbagh b. Nubāta that ‘Alī ﷺ passed by a group of people playing chess, so he said, ‘﴿What are these images to which you are so devoted?﴾ You have indeed disobeyed God and His Messenger.” [21:52]

3 Al-Ḥusayn b. ‘Alwān, a reliable Sunnī narrator of Imam Ja‘far al-Ṣādiq’s traditions. See Khū‘ī, *Mu‘jam*, 7:34–7 (nr. 3507).

٣. روى العياشي بإسناده عن الحسين بن علوان، قال: سئل أبو عبد الله عليه السلام عن طعم الماء، فقال: سل تفقهًا، ولا تسأل تعتًا، طعم الماء طعم الحياة، قال الله سبحانه ﴿وَجَعَلْنَا مِنَ الْمَاءِ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ حَيٍّ﴾.

٤. روى العياشي بإسناده عن الأصبع بن نباتة: أن عليًا عليه السلام مرّ بقوم يلعبون الشطرنج. فقال: ﴿مَا هَذِهِ التَّمَاثِيلُ الَّتِي أَنْتُمْ لَهَا عَاكِفُونَ﴾ لقد عصيتم الله ورسوله.