

Lesson 11: THE BOOKS OF ALLAH

Allah سبحانه وتعالى is the Creator of all, and He ultimately cares for all His creation. Human beings are His best creation. He has given them knowledge and granted them freedom to choose between good and evil. They are sent to this world for short period and are given an opportunity to choose between good and evil. They are sent to this world for a short period and are given an opportunity to choose between good and evil. They can choose good and be worthy of Allah’s سبحانه وتعالى love, or follow evil and earn Allah’s سبحانه وتعالى anger. They will all be judged on the Day of Judgement for their beliefs and action.

Allah سبحانه وتعالى has created human beings on the *Fitrah*, the true nature. The *Fitrah* means that true human nature is innocent. There is no concept of “Original Sin” in Islam. Islam does not advocate the Christian idea that because Adam, the first man and the first prophet, disobeyed Allah سبحانه وتعالى by eating the forbidden fruit, all humanity is born in sin.

Human beings face many challenges in life. They also have many desires and the God-given freedom to follow them. The Shaitan is always busy trying to misguide them and make them forget Allah سبحانه وتعالى. Many times, people succumb to the Shaitan’s temptations. Sometimes, their environment is bad, and it corrupts even good people. Humans tend to be forgetful, and they need constant reminders, Thus, human *Fitrah* requires constant guidance and reminders to remain steadfast on Allah’s path.

Allah سبحانه وتعالى knows the nature of His creatures. Out of His love, and He wants to guide them to the right path. From the time of creation, He sent his prophets and messengers to guide humanity to His path and become worthy of His reward in this world and the Hereafter.

Allah سبحانه وتعالى sent many prophets (*Anbiya*) and sent his *Wahi*, the revelation, through Angel Jibril عليه السلام. Some of the prophets received the *Wahi* in the form of a book as a complete code. Such prophets are called the messengers (*Rusul*). Thus, every messenger is a prophet, but every prophet is not a messenger.

The revelations taught them the truth about Allah **سبحانه وتعالى**, the mission of His prophets and the teachings about leading a righteous life. The revelations clearly laid down what is *Halal*, or permissible, and what is *Haram*, or forbidden.

The teachings revealed by Allah **سبحانه وتعالى** through his prophets and written down in His books make up Islam. Islam means submission to Allah **سبحانه وتعالى**. The religion of Islam teaches us to submit our will to the Will of Allah **سبحانه وتعالى**, and follow His revelation in all walks of life. Islam has been Allah's **سبحانه وتعالى** chosen religion for humanity for all times and all places, and it was revealed to Prophet Muhammad in its final and complete form.

Allah **سبحانه وتعالى** sent His guidance to every people on earth through his prophets and his messengers with His written word. However, most of those books have either been lost or changed. Some of them have been changed beyond recognition. These books may still have some remains of the original teachings of *Tawhid* and guidance for moral life, but there are so many changes made by misguided people that the true message can hardly be recognized.

We do not know the exact number of the books, nor do we know which of the existing religious books and sacred literature is truly divine revelation. Allah **سبحانه وتعالى** mentions only five prophets and the names of the books they received in the Quran:

Prophets Ibrahim **عليه السلام** received the *Suhuf*.

Prophet Musa **عليه السلام** received the *Tawrait* (Torah)

Prophet Da'wud **عليه السلام** received the *Zabur* (Psalms)

Prophet 'Isa **عليه السلام** received the *Injil* (Gospels).

Prophet Muhammad **صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ** received The Quran.

In the next chapter, we shall discuss the truth and authenticity of these books and the Quran. The Muslims must believe in all the books of Allah **سبحانه وتعالى** which are mentioned in the Quran. Muslims must also respect all other sacred and religious books, although we cannot be certain of how authentic they are. We must neither affirm nor deny their divine origin, but show them our respect.

As far as the truth of these books is concerned, we have the teachings of the Qur'an as the criteria. The truth, as contained in these books, also came from divine revelations. We must seek the truth wherever it is and accept it.

Rasulullah ﷺ said:

Wisdom is the lost property of a believer he accepts it wherever he finds it.

(Transmitted by Tirmidhi & Ibn Majah)

Islam also forbids us to ridicule other people and laugh at their beliefs and religious practices. If we have differences, we must make our explanations with kindness and understanding.