4524 - Who Do Muslims Worship?

the question

Who do Muslims worship?

Summary of answer

Muslims worship Allah, the One True God, as taught by all Prophets and revealed in the Quran. He is the Creator, Sustainer, and Ruler of all that exists. Worshipping Him alone is central to the Islamic faith, and it is through this worship that Muslims submit to His will, seeking His guidance and mercy in this life and the Hereafter.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Introduction to Islamic Worship

Before answering, we would like to express our appreciation for your interest, at such a young age, in the religion of Islam. May Allah open the door for you to find much blessing through your asking this question, and decree for your guidance such as you have never thought of. Allah [the Arabic name for the One True God – Translator] Says in the Quran [the Holy Book of Islam] (interpretation of the meaning):

{This is the Guidance of Allah with which He guides whomsoever He wills His slaves…} [Al-An`am 6:88]

{And whomsoever Allah wills to guide, He opens his breast to Islam…" [Al-An`am 6:125]

With regard to this important question – who do the Muslims worship? – the answer is to be found in the Glorious Quran, which is the Scripture of Islam, and in the words of the Prophet of Islam,

Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) who received Revelation from his Lord.

Allah Says (interpretation of the meaning):

{In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful. All praises and thanks be to Allah, the Lord of the `Alamin (mankind, jinns and all that exists), the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful, the Only Owner (and the Only Ruling Judge) of the Day of Recompense (i.e., the Day of Resurrection). You (Alone) we worship, and You (alone) we ask for help (for each and every thing).} [Al-Fatihah 1:1-5]

{O mankind! Worship your Lord (Allah), Who has created you and those before you so that you may become Al-Muttaqun (the pious).} [Al-Baqarah 2:21]

{Such is Allah, your Lord! None has the right to be worshipped but He, the Creator of all things. So worship Him (Alone), and He is the Wakil (Trustee, Disposer of affairs, Guardian) over all things.} [Al-An`am 6:102]

{And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him, and that you be dutiful to your parents. If one of them or both of them attain old age in your life, say not to them a word of disrespect, nor shout at them but address them in terms of honour." [Al-Isra' 17:23]

Prophets and Their Call to Worship Allah Alone

Muslims worship Allah [the One True God] whom all the Prophets worshipped. Allah Says (interpretation of the meaning):

{Or were you witnesses when death approached Ya`qub [Jacob]? When he said unto his sons, 'What will you worship after me?' They said, 'We shall worship your God, the God of your fathers, IbrahIm [Abraham], Isma'Il [Ishmael] and Is-haq [Isac], One God, and to Him we submit (in Islam).} [Al-Baqarah 2:133]

The Muslims worship Allah and call others who follow different religions to worship Allah Alone, as Allah Says (interpretation of the meaning):

{Say [O Muhammad]: ‘O People of the Scripture [Jews and Christians]: come to a word that is just between us and you, that we worship none but Allah, and we associate no partners with Him, and that none of us shall take others as lords besides Allah.’ Then, if they turn away, say, ‘Bear witness that we are Muslims.’} [Al `Imran 3:64]

It is Allah Alone Whom Nuh [Noah] (peace be upon him) called his people to worship, as Allah Says (interpretation of the meaning):

{Indeed, We sent Nuh [Noah] to his people and he said: ‘O my people! Worship Allah! You have no other god but Him. Certainly, I fear for you the torment of a Great Day!’} [Al-A`raf 7:59]

It is Allah Alone whom the Messiah [Jesus] (peace be upon him) called people to worship, as Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

{Surely they have disbelieved who say: ‘Allah is the Messiah [Jesus] son of Maryam [Mary].’ But the Messiah said: ‘O Children of Israel! Worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord.’ Verily, whosoever sets up partners in worship with Allah, then Allah has forbidden Paradise for him, and the Fire will be his abode. And for the Dhalimun (polytheists and wrong-doers) there are no helpers.} [Al-Ma’idah 5:73]

Allah Says (interpretation of the meaning):

{And (remember) when Allah will say (on the Day of Resurrection): ‘O `Isa [Jesus], son of Maryam [Mary]! Did you say unto men: ‘Worship me and my mother as two gods besides Allah?’ He will say: ‘Glory be to You! It was not for me to say what I had no right (to say). Had I said such a thing, You would surely have known it. You know what is in my inner-self though I do not know what is in Yours. You, only You, are the All-Knower of all that is hidden and unseen.

Never did I say to them aught except what You (Allah) did command me to say: “Worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord.” And I was a witness over them while I dwelt amongst them, but when You took me up, You were the Watcher over them, and You are a Witness to all things.’} [Al-Ma’idah 5:116-117]

When Allah spoke to His Prophet Musa [Moses] (peace be upon him), He Said (interpretation of the meaning):

{Verily, I am Allah! None has the right to be worshipped but I, so worship Me, and perform prayer for My Remembrance.} [Ta-Ha 20:14]

Allah commanded His Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) as follows (interpretation of the meaning):

{Say [O Muhammad]: 'O mankind! If you are in doubt as to my religion (Islam), then (know that) I will never worship those whom you worship, besides Allah. But I worship Allah Who causes you to die, I am commanded to be one of the believers.} [Yunus 10:104]

It is Him Alone, with no partner or associate, Whom the angels worship and do not worship anyone or anything besides Him, as He Says (interpretation of the meaning):

{To Him belongs whosoever is in the heavens and on earth. And those who are near Him (i.e., the angels) are not too proud to worship Him, nor are they weary (of His worship).} [Al-Anbiya' 21:19]

Everything that is worshipped instead of Allah can neither bring benefit nor cause harm, it can neither create nor provide. Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

{Say (O Muhammad, to mankind); 'How do you worship besides Allah something which has no power either to harm or to benefit you? But it is Allah Who is the All-Hearer, All-Knower.'} [Al-Ma'idah 5:76]

{You worship besides Allah only idols, and you only invent falsehood. Verily, those whom you worship besides Allah have no power to give you provision, so seek your provision from Allah (Alone), and worship Him (Alone), and be grateful to Him. To Him (Alone) you will be brought back.} [Al-`Ankabut 29:17]

Why Worship Allah Alone?

Having explained this, we must complete the topic by asking: why should we worship Allah Alone with no partner or associate? The answer is as follows:

- Firstly: because there is nothing and nobody else in the universe that deserves to be worshipped, for Allah is the Creator and Sustainer, Who has created the universe out of nothing and has bestowed so many blessings upon us. Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

{So glorify Allah, when you come up to the evening [i.e., offer the Maghrib (sunset) and `Isha' (night) prayers], and when you enter the morning [I.e., offer the Fajr (morning) prayers]. And His is all the praise and thanks in the heavens and the earth, and (glorify Him) in the afternoon [i.e., offer 'Asr (mid-afternoon) prayer] and when you come up to the time when the day begins to decline [i.e., offer the Zuhr (mid-day) prayer]. He brings out the living from the dead, and brings out the dead from the living. And He revives the earth after its death, and thus shall you be brought out (resurrected). And among His Signs is this, that He created you (Adam) from dust, and then [Hawwa (Eve) from Adam's rib, then his offspring from the semen, and], - behold you are human beings scattered! And among His Signs is this, that He created for you wives from among yourselves, that you may find repose in them, and He has put between you affection and mercy. Verily, in that are indeed signs for a people who reflect. And among His Signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the difference of your languages and colours. Verily in that are indeed signs for men of sound knowledge. And among His Signs is the sleep that you take by night and by day, and your seeking of His Bounty. Verily, in that are indeed signs for a people who listen. And among His Signs is that He shows you the lightning, by way of fear and hope, and He sends down water (rain) from the sky, and therewith revives the earth after its death. Verily, in that are indeed signs for a people who understand. And among His Signs is that the heaven and the earth stand by His Command, then afterwards when He will call you by a single call, behold, you will come out from the earth (ie., from your graves, for reckoning and recompense).To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and the earth. All are obedient to Him. And He it is Who originates the creation,

then will repeat it (after it has perished), and this is easier for Him. His is the highest description (i.e., none has the right to be worshipped but He, and there is nothing comparable unto Him) in the heavens and in the earth. And He is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.} [Ar-Rum 30: 17-27]

Allah Says (interpretation of the meaning):

{Is not He (better than your gods) Who created the heavens and the earth, and sends down for you water (rain) from the sky, whereby We cause to grow wonderful gardens full of beauty and delight? It is not in your ability to cause the growth of their trees. Is there any god with Allah? Nay, but they are a people who ascribe equals (to Him)! Is not he (better than your gods) Who has made the earth as a fixed abode, and has placed rivers in its midst, and has placed firm mountains therein, and has set a barrier between the two seas (of salt and sweet water). Is there any god with Allah? Nay, but most of them know not. Is not He (better than your gods) Who responds to the distressed one, when He calls Him, and Who removes the evil, generations after generations. Is there any god with Allah? Little is it that you remember! Is not He (better than your gods) Who guides you in the darkness of the land and the sea, and Who sends the winds as heralds of glad tidings, going before His mercy (rain)? Is there any god with Allah? High Exalted be Allah above all that they associate as partners (to Him)! Is not He (better than your so-called gods) Who originates creation, and shall thereafter repeat it, and Who provides for you from heaven and earth? Is there any god with Allah? Say: 'bring forth your proofs, if you are truthful' Say: 'None on the heavens and the earth knows the unseen except Allah, nor can they perceive when they shall be resurrected.'} [An-Naml 27:60-65]

So is there anyone or anything besides Allah that deserves to be worshipped?

- Secondly: Allah did not create us except to worship Him, as He says (interpretation of the meaning):

{And I (Allah) created not the jinns and humans except that they should worship Me (Alone).} [Adh-Dhariyat 51:56]

- Thirdly: No one will be saved on the Day of Resurrection except those who used to worship

Allah truly and sincerely. After death Allah will resurrect His slaves and call them to account, rewarding or punishing them according to their deeds. No one will be saved on that day except for those who used to worship Allah Alone. The rest will be gathered into Hell, a terrible fate!

The Prophet of Islam, Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), was asked by his Companions: “Will we see our Lord on the Day of Resurrection?” He told them:

“Do you doubt that you can see the sun and the moon when the sky is clear?” We [his Companions] said, “No.” He said, “Then you should not doubt that you will see your Lord on that Day, you will see Him as you see them (the sun and moon).” Then he said, “A caller will call out, ‘Let every people go to that which they used to worship.’ So the worshippers of the cross will go with their cross, the worshippers of idols will go with their idols and the worshippers of every god will go with their gods, until there will be left those who used to worship Allah, whether they were righteous or otherwise, and a few of the People of the Book [Jews and Christians]. Then Hell will be brought and shown to them as if it is a mirage. It will be said to the Jews, ‘What did you used to worship?’ They will say, ‘We used to worship ‘Uzayr, the son of God.’ It will be said, ‘You have lied. Allah does not have a wife or son. What do you want?’ They will say, ‘We want something to drink.’ It will be said to them, ‘Drink!’ and they will fall into Hell. Then it will be said to the Christians, ‘What did you used to worship?’ They will say, ‘We used to worship the Messiah, the son of God.’ It will be said, ‘You have lied. Allah does not have a wife or son. What do you want?’ They will say, ‘We want something to drink.’ It will be said to them, ‘Drink!’ and they will fall into Hell. Then there will be left those who used to worship Allah, whether they were righteous or otherwise. It will be said to them, ‘What are you waiting for? All the people have gone.’ They will say, ‘We have separated from them and we need Him more today. We heard a caller saying that every people should follow that which they used to worship, so we are waiting for our Lord.’ He will say, ‘Al-Jabbar [the Compeller, i.e., Allah] will come…’ And He will say, ‘I am your Lord.’ They will say, ‘You are our Lord,’ but none will speak to Him except the Prophets… then every believer will prostrate to Him.” (Narrated by Al-Bukhari, no. 6886)

These believers are the people of Paradise on whom shall be no fear neither shall they grieve, and they will dwell therein forever.

We hope that this matter has now become clear. In conclusion we can say nothing except that which Allah has Said (interpretation of the meaning):

{Whoever goes right, then he goes right only for the benefit of his own self. And whoever goes astray, then he goes astray to his own loss…} [Al-Isra' 17:15]

Peace be upon him who follows the guidance.

For more details, please see the following answers: 21519, 49016, 12628, 221178, 9359, 13337.

And Allah knows best.