9564 - Is Allah above Paradise?

the question

Is Allah above the heaven or in the heaven physically? Also, is it part of belief that Allah is physically bigger than the universe?

Summary of answer

Because Allah is perfect in His Highness and Power, He cannot reside in anything that He has created. So it cannot be said that He is in Paradise. On the contrary, He is above the Throne which is the roof of Al-Firdaws, and Al-Firdaws is the highest part of Paradise.
It is not permissible for the Muslim to think about the essence of Allah, or to try to imagine His Might, for the human mind is incapable of comprehending the real essence and attributes of the Lord, and how they are.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Shaykh `Abd Ar-Rahman Al-Barrak (may Allah preserve him), said:

“Praise be to Allah, the Most High (Al-`Ali), the Almighty (Al-`Adhim), the Most Great (Al-Kabir), the Most High (Al-Muta`al). Glory be to Allah, the Almighty (Al-`Adhim). There is no god worthy of worship but Allah, and Allah is Most Great. And peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad and his family and companions…

One of the things which it is obligatory to believe in is that Allah is the Most High (Al-`Ali, Al-A`la) and that He rose over the Throne, as He has told us about Himself in His Book. He, may He be Glorified and Exalted, is above all things. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said in his Du`a: “You are the Most High (Adh-Dhahir) and there is nothing above You.”

We are also obliged to believe that He is the Most Great (Al-Kabir), and that He is greater than all things, and that He is the Almighty (Al-`Adhim), and there is nothing mightier than Him. Part of the perfection of His might and power is that He will grasp the heavens and the earth in His two Hands on the Day of Resurrection, as He says (interpretation of the meaning):

“They made not a just estimate of Allah such as is due to Him. And on the Day of Resurrection the whole of the earth will be grasped by His Hand and the heavens will be rolled up in His Right Hand. Glorified be He, and High be He above all that they associate as partners with Him!” [Az-Zumar 39:67]

It must be noted that because Allah is perfect in His Highness and Power, He cannot reside in anything that He has created. So it cannot be said that He is in Paradise . On the contrary, He is above the Throne which is the roof of Al-Firdaws, and Al-Firdaws is the highest part of Paradise . The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “When you ask Allah for Paradise, ask Him for Al-Firdaws, for it is the highest part of Paradise and it is in the best part of Paradise, and its roof is the Throne of the Most Merciful.”

It is not permissible for the Muslim to think about the essence of Allah, or to try to imagine His Might, for the human mind is incapable of comprehending the real essence and attributes of the Lord, and how they are. As Imam Malik (may Allah have mercy on him) said, when he was asked about how Allah rose over the Throne : “We know that He rose over it, but we do not know how. Believing in it is obligatory and asking about it is Bid`ah.”