269239 - He is suffering from intrusive thoughts about Allah

the question

I have a question that the Shaytan keeps whispering to me: if Allah is far above being a physical entity or having an image, then what is Allah? In other words, is Allah just a vacuum or nothing? I apologise for this inappropriate question, but the Shaytan keeps whispering that to me, and I am afraid that I will fall into his trap.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

What a person must believe is that Allah, may He be Exalted, has a real Essence and does exist, and that He possesses perfect attributes.

So He is the Ever-Living, the Self-Sustaining and All-Sustaining, the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing, the All-Knowing, the Most Wise, and other names and attributes of His that are proven in the texts of the Qur'an and Sunnah.

Exalted by Allah far above being a vacuum or nothing.

Can that which is nothing hear, see, speak and have a Countenance (Face) and two Hands?

Moreover, it is not permissible for anyone to form an image of Allah, may He be Exalted, in his mind, because He, may He be Exalted, does not resemble anything of His creation, and it is not possible for anyone to form an image in his mind of His Essence or attributes.

May Allah have mercy on at-Tahawi, who said in his famous *`Aqidah*: No one can imagine Him or comprehend Him, and He does not resemble any of His creation. May He be Glorified, Exalted and Sanctified.

It cannot be said that Allah is a body or a physical being, whether in the context of denying that or affirming it, because that is not mentioned in the religious texts, and because there may be something correct in that or something wrong, as we have explained in the answer to question no. 130759.

You must believe that Allah, may He be Exalted, is far above resembling any created thing, nothing is like unto Him, and He is the All-Hearing, All-Seeing. You should distract yourself from thinking about His Essence, ignore the whispers of the Shaytan and seek refuge with Allah from them, saying: *Amantu Billahi wa Rasulihi* (I believe in Allah and His Messenger). It was narrated from `A'ishah that the Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: "The Shaytan may come to one of you and say: Who created you? And he says: Allah. Then [the Shaytan] says: Who created Allah? If one of you experiences that, let him recite the words *Amantu Billahi wa Rusulihi* (I believe in Allah and His Messengers), and that will go away from him.

Narrated by Ahmad, 25671. Al-Albani classed it as authentic (sahih) in *As-Sahihah*.

For more information, see the answers to questions no. 98295 and 12315.

May Allah protect us and you from the evil of the whispers of the Shaytan, excessive delving into matters and thinking too much about things that it is not appropriate to think about.

And Allah knows best.