

I. The Name of Allah ﷻ Al-Wasi3 (The Vast, The Infinity)

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A. Meaning of the Name of Allah ﷻ Al-Wasi3.

Al-Wasi3 is one of the beautiful names of Allah ﷻ , the Most High. It means The All-Encompassing or The Boundless. Allah ﷻ is the source of all existence, and He has no limits or boundaries. He is eternal and infinity; He was before everything and He will be after everything. Nothing can escape His knowledge, power, mercy, and justice. A simple-minded Bedouin person might think of Allah ﷻ as Al-Wasi3 in terms of His vastness and greatness. He might imagine Allah ﷻ as being bigger than the sky, the earth, the mountains, and the oceans. He would feel gratitude towards Allah ﷻ, who created everything and sustains everything.

B. There can be Only One Infinity.

This name shows us that Allah ﷻ must be one by understanding that there can only be one Al-Wasi3 because two infinities cannot coexist. There has to be a boundary where the first infinity ends and the second infinity starts. By definition, infinity means no boundaries, which

means neither one of them is infinity or can be infinity. In addition, if there were two or more beings who are infinity and all-encompassing, then they would contradict each other and limit each other. There would be no harmony or order in the universe. But Allah ﷻ is the only one who has no partner, no equal, and no rival. He is the only one who deserves our worship and obedience.

C. The Kinds of Infinity.

There are two types of infinity that we can imagine: the fake infinity and the real infinity. We have to be able to tell them apart, because one is promoted by Shaytan: the fake infinity, and the other is promoted by Allah ﷻ: the real infinity.

i. The fake infinity.

The fake infinity or the circular infinity is the false impression of infinity that Shaytan uses to trick us. It is not really infinity, but only repeating and rotating. This type of infinity is like spinning in circles or loops, without any goal or achievement. When we get into this type of infinity, we will soon get bored, exhausted, and angry. We will lose our sense of direction and purpose. Some examples of the circular infinity are the cycles of day, night, day, night, ...etc., summer, fall, winter, spring, summer, fall, winter, spring ...etc. Shaytan tries to make us think and behave as if this life is endless cycles of day and night, and seasons. Those who fall for this trap would concentrate on this life as if it is everything and neglect the next life. This type of circular infinities should be avoided, because they are snares of Shaytan, and they are damaging to our souls. Shaytan is not everlasting, so even if he makes something that looks like infinity, it is a bad and fake copy. This type of circular infinity does not bring happiness. It is like a zoo, in a way. We might go around the zoo once, twice, three times, or four times, but after a while, we will see the same animals, the same cages, and the same views. We will be bored because we will not find anything new or amazing. We will want to leave and discover something else. The Real Infinity or Straight Infinity, is the true infinity that Allah ﷻ offers us. It is the infinity of His blessings, His mercy, and His rewards. This kind of infinity is like going on a straight path that leads to endless happiness and satisfaction. When we follow this kind of infinity, we will never get bored, weary, or unhappy. We will always discover new and amazing things. We will always feel grateful and content. This kind of infinity is exemplified by Jannah (Paradise). Jannah is an everlasting abode, where we will enjoy everything that we desire and more. Allah ﷻ created this infinity to make us happy, and He wants us to strive for it. If we were told that we would be in Jannah for only 50 million years, we would be worried, wouldn't we? We would think that our time in Jannah is limited and that we might lose it. We would not be fully happy in Jannah, and it would become a finite and restricted place, rather than a limitless and expansive one. That is why Allah ﷻ made Jannah eternal, so that we can have peace and joy in His presence.

ii. The real infinity

The real infinity or the straight path infinity, is the genuine infinity that Allah ﷻ gives us. It is the infinity of Jannah. It is the infinity of His favors, His compassion, and His rewards. This type of infinity is like walking on a straight path that leads to everlasting happiness and fulfillment. When we are blessed with this type of infinity, we will never feel bored, tired, or sad. We will always experience new and wonderful things. We will always feel thankful and happy. This type of infinity is illustrated by Jannah (Paradise). Jannah is a never-ending home, where we will have everything that we wish for and more. Allah ﷻ made this infinity to please us, and He wants us to work for it. Jannah has no end and it only improves and improves. New surprises every day and infinite entertainment activities. If we were told that we would be in Jannah for only 50 million years, we would be worried, wouldn't we? We would think that our time in Jannah is finite and that we might lose it. We would not be completely happy in Jannah, and it would become a limited and narrow place, rather than an unlimited and wide one. That is why Allah ﷻ made Jannah eternal, so that we can have infinite peace and joy in His presence.

iii. Shytan used the love of infinity to trick Adam to eat from the forbidden tree.

Shytan exploited the human desire for infinite life to lure Adam to eat from the forbidden tree by lying to him. Shytan told Adam that by eating from the tree, he will achieve immortality and eternity. Shytan made Adam think that he will attain the real infinity that is only in the hands of Allah ﷻ alone. Adam got a kind of fake infinity by eating from the forbidden tree. But that infinity was not for Adam, it was for his offspring: they will increase and grow. This is actually a fake infinity that Adam entered into: By eating from the tree, he was banished from Paradise and sent to Earth, where he faced death and difficulties. By following what Shytan convinced him to do, Adam lost the real infinity of Jannah and accepted a finite and temporary life.

Shytan promised Adam an infinite life. In (Al-A3raf, 7:20) But Satan whispered evil to them: he said, "Your Lord only forbade you this tree, lest you should become angels or such beings as live forever."

Shytan tricked Adam by naming the forbidden tree the tree of infinity. In (Taha, 20:120) But Satan whispered evil to him: he said, "O Adam! shall I lead thee to the Tree of Eternity and to a kingdom that never decays?"

iv. Adam got some kind of fake infinity by eating from the forbidden tree.

As a consequence of eating from the forbidden tree, Adam and Eve were banished to earth and endowed with the capacity to procreate and have offspring. But that infinity was not meant for Adam, it was meant for his descendants: they will multiply and spread. This is actually a fake infinity that Adam fell into: By eating from the tree, he was expelled from Paradise and

sent to Earth, where he faced death and hardship. By doing what Shytan persuaded him to do, Adam lost the real infinity of Jannah and settled for a finite and temporary life, which is not even an infinity: a fake infinity that Shytan offered.

D. The Best Pleasure in Jannah.

The best pleasure in Jannah is to see the face of Allah ﷻ, the Most Glorious and the Most Beautiful. Allah ﷻ says: "Some faces, that Day, will be radiant, looking at their Lord." (Quran 75:22-23) This is the ultimate reward and honor for the believers, who will be delighted and satisfied by the sight of their Lord.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: "When the people of Paradise enter Paradise, Allah ﷻ will say: 'Do you want anything more?' They will say: 'Have You not brightened our faces, admitted us to Paradise and saved us from Hell?' Then the veil will be lifted and they will not have seen anything more dear to them than looking at their Lord, may He be glorified and exalted. This is what is meant by 'even more.'"¹

The people of hell, on the other hand, will be deprived of this pleasure and will suffer the greatest punishment and humiliation. They will not be able to see the face of Allah ﷻ, nor will they receive His mercy. Allah ﷻ says: "Nay! Surely, they (the evil-doers) will be veiled from seeing their Lord that Day." (Quran 83:15)

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: "The most miserable man in the world of those meant for Paradise will be dipped once in Paradise. Then he will be asked, 'Son of Adam, did you ever face any misery? Did you ever experience any hardship?' So he will say, 'No, by Allah ﷻ, O Lord! I never faced any misery, and I never experienced any hardship.' And the most fortunate man in the world of those meant for Hellfire will be dipped once in Hellfire. Then he will be asked, 'Son of Adam, did you ever see any good? Did you ever experience any blessing?' So he will say, 'No, by Allah ﷻ, O Lord! I never saw any good, and I never experienced any blessing.'"²

The pleasure of seeing the face of Allah ﷻ is available to all the people of Jannah, regardless of their ranks and levels. However, the frequency and duration of this pleasure may vary according to their degrees of faith and obedience. Allah ﷻ says: "For those who do good is the best reward and even more." (Quran 10:26)

¹ Muslim

² Bukhari and Muslim

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: "The people of the highest levels will see Him twice every day, morning and evening, and the people of the lower levels will see Him once every week, on Fridays. And there will be a market in which there will be no buying or selling, but there will be images of men and women. If a man likes an image, he will enter it."³

E. How to Understand the Infinity of Allah ﷻ.

i. We are not allowed to imagine Allah ﷻ.

The infinity of Allah ﷻ is beyond our human comprehension and perception. Allah ﷻ is unlike anything that we know or can imagine. He is the Creator and the Owner of everything, and nothing can limit or contain Him. He is the First and the Last, the Manifest and the Hidden, the Eternal and the Everlasting. He has no beginning and no end, no shape and no form, no partner and no equal. He is the Most High and the Most Great, and nothing is comparable to Him. How can we imagine him?

We are not allowed to imagine the infinity of Allah ﷻ, because it leads to misguidance. We cannot attribute to Allah ﷻ any of the qualities or characteristics of His creation, such as size, shape, color, direction, place, time, etc. We cannot compare Him to anything or anyone, or make any images or idols of Him. We cannot limit Him by our limited understanding or imagination. We can only believe in Him and worship Him as He has revealed Himself to us in His names and attributes, and as He has taught us through His messengers and His books.

ii. We can only imagine the creation of Allah ﷻ.

We can only imagine the limited infinity of Allah ﷻ's creation, such as the universe, which is a sign of His power and greatness. The universe is vast and expanding, and it contains countless stars, planets, galaxies, and other wonders that we cannot fully explore or measure. The universe is a manifestation of Allah ﷻ's infinite creativity and greatness, and it shows us His signs and proofs. However, the universe is not infinite in itself, nor is it independent of Allah ﷻ. It is a creation of Allah ﷻ, and it is dependent on Him for its existence and sustenance. It has a beginning and it will have an end, and it is subject to the laws and commands of Allah ﷻ. Therefore, we should not worship the creation, but the Creator. We should not be deceived by the apparent infinity of the creation, but seek the true infinity of the Creator.

iii. The limited cannot create and contain the unlimited (infinity).

The limited cannot create and contain the unlimited. Allah ﷻ is the only one who is truly unlimited and infinite. He is the source and the sustainer of all existence, and He has no limits or

³ Tirmidhi

boundaries. He is eternal and infinite; He was before everything and He will be after everything. Nothing can escape His knowledge, power, mercy, and justice. Therefore, only God can provide something that is truly unlimited, such as His blessings, His mercy, and His rewards. And He can choose to share them with His creatures, who are limited and dependent on Him.

iv. The infinity in the universe.

When we look up at the sky, we can see the clouds and the blue sky during the day. At night, we can see the stars and the planets. This layer of the heaven is the first one; the one that we and the scientists observe. Its relative size to the second one is like a ring in a vast desert, and the second one relative to the third one is like a ring in a vast desert ...etc. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: "The distance between the first and the second heaven is five hundred years, and between each of the heavens is five hundred years, and between the seventh heaven and the Kursi is five hundred years, and between the Kursi and the water is five hundred years, and the Throne is above the water, and Allah ﷻ is above the Throne, and nothing is hidden from Him of your deeds." (Bukhari and Muslim).

To Imagine the infinity of the universe, consider the following facts:

- The light can circle the earth 8 times in one second.
- The moon is one and quarter light seconds away.
- The sun is nine light minutes away from the earth.
- The solar system is twelve light hours in diameter.
- The nearest star to the sun is Ross 248, and it is 10 light years away.
- The Milky Way is the galaxy that contains our Solar System.
- The galaxy diameter is 100,000 light years. It contains 200 billion stars. 200 Giga stars.
- The galaxy moves with a speed of 400 miles per second.
- In the 1920s observations by astronomer Edwin Hubble showed that the Milky Way was just one of around 200 billion galaxies in the observable universe.
- The nearest galaxy to us is called Coma Berenices is 55,000 light years away from earth.
- The observable universe is 14 billion light years because the age of the universe is about 14 billion years (10^9). 14 Giga years.
- Because the universe is expanding, the observable universe is now 47 billion light years.