

GUIDE for *Life*

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If I was to ask you to build something with your own hands, using any material you liked, be it clay or metal, or I asked you to draw something and paint it in any image or shape, be it a thing or a being, and then I said to you that this thing that you have just created, is actually your creator, you would call me insane. Imagine the event; you have just spent one week perfectly sculpting a shape, and then I came and told you that this thing has power over you, it created you, it guides you to do things that are good, and protects you from evil, it will give you children and will even allocate you wealth so bow before it

and sacrifice in its name, you would ask me to visit a doctor. You would know that this has just been made by you, so how could it have been your creator?

All humans have a natural programming to worship something, for this is how we have been designed. Sometimes we see this being misdirected, even on a simple level. If you look around at the youth, they aspire to be like football players or pop stars. On a higher level, you see the worship of idols, statues, and holy men. You see the worship of pictures of men and women, where someone has claimed that this is the creator or that is the creator, where in many cases those being worshipped never claimed that they were worthy of worship.

We need to direct our reverence to one thing that deserves to be worshipped; and it screams of logic that we can only worship one, for if we were to worship two or more then they surely can't be the ultimate creator, for the ultimate creator must be all powerful, the one who created everything else and the one who will be here after everything we know is destroyed. Plus, they would just fight amongst themselves!

So who we praise cannot be human,

for one human is no better than another. All humans have been born, and all humans will die. It cannot be an animal, for that serves even less logic. And it cannot be something that we have created with our own hands. That leaves a creator whose characteristics and rights are for Him alone. Thus all attributes that belong to the creator are not shared by others in his creation, so to try and attribute a form, a shape and to make him look like us is not possible. We should know of the creator through his attributes, and not distract ourselves with a form. We should worship without an image, and direct our worship to Him alone, knowing that only the ultimate creator can protect us. We should know that he is the possessor of all power, and that none besides Him can benefit or harm a person, or provide for his needs, or give and take away life or wield authority or influence.

This conviction makes a believer in the ultimate creator indifferent to, and independent and fearless of, all powers other than those of the creator. This believer never bows his head in homage to any of the creator's creatures, nor does he stretch out his hand before anyone else. He is not overawed by anybody's greatness. This attitude of mind cannot be produced by any other belief. For it is necessary that

those who associate other beings with the creator, or who deny a creator, should bow in homage to some creatures.

To find out more, please call the dedicated English speaking line below, or feel free to visit Fanar, opposite Souq Waqif off the Corniche. We look forward to welcoming you in the daytime or evening.

