

Prayer Behind An Imam Who Claims Allah is Everywhere

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Q: There is an Imam who leads us in prayer and he says that indeed Allah is not above or below, and the He (Allah) is everywhere. So, is it permissible to pray behind such an Imam?

A: "This is a misguided innovator; don't pray behind him. Whoever says that Allah is not above or below is a disbeliever. Allah is above. He, the Exalted and High, says:

الرَّحْمَنُ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ اسْتَوَى

The Most Beneficent (Allah) Istawa (rose over) the (Mighty) Throne (in a manner that suits His Majesty).

[Surah Taha, Ayah 5]

And He, the Glorified, says:

إِنَّ رَبَّكُمُ اللَّهُ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ فِي سِتَّةِ أَيَّامٍ ثُمَّ اسْتَوَى عَلَى الْعَرْشِ

Indeed your Lord is Allah, Who created the heavens and the earth in Six Days, and then He Istawa (rose over) the Throne (really in a manner that suits His Majesty).

[Surat Al A'raf, Ayah 54 and Surat Yunus, Ayah 3]

And He says:

وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ

And He is the Most High, the Most Great.

[Surat al-Baqara, Ayah 255 and Surat Ash-Shuraa, Ayah 4]

هُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْكَبِيرُ

He is the Most High, the Most Great.

[Surat al-Hajj, Ayah 62 and Surat Luqman, Ayah 30]

فَالْحُكْمُ لِلَّهِ الْعَلِيِّ الْكَبِيرِ

So the judgement is only with Allah, the Most High, the Most Great!

[Surat Ghafir, Ayah 12]

And He says:

إِلَيْهِ يَصْعَدُ الْكَلِمُ الطَّيِّبُ وَالْعَمَلُ الصَّالِحُ يَرْفَعُهُ

To Him ascend (all) the goodly words, and the righteous deeds exalt it (the goodly words i.e. the goodly words are not accepted by Allah unless and until they are followed by good deeds).

[Surat Faatir, Ayah 10]

And He says:

تَنْزِعُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ إِلَيْهِ

The angels and the Ruh [Jibrael (Gabriel)] ascend to Him

[Surat al Ma'aarij, Ayah 4]

The verses in this regard are many. So whoever claims that Allah is not above (His creation, in a manner that befits His Majesty) and that He is in every place, then they are a misguided disbeliever, leading others astray. He must repent, otherwise, he is killed.*** It is the responsibility of the Muslim ruler to witness his repentance before the Court of Islamic Law. So he repents, otherwise, he is killed, and we ask Allah for wellbeing."

*****Translators Note:** The Shaykh, may Allah have mercy upon him, issued this verdict from the land of Tawheed; the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, may Allah bless and protect it. The punishment of execution that was mentioned here is not to be confused with the barbaric and murderous acts of lunatic fringe groups like ISIS, al-Qaeda, Al Shabab, the Taliban, etc. This is a legal ruling that can only be carried out in a land of Islam by those people in authority, under the leadership of a Muslim ruler. Any senseless act of violence, whether it be against a Muslim or Non-Muslim, then Islaam and the true believers are free from them, even if the perpetrators of such crimes claim that they did them in the name of Islam.

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Translation: Abu Mohamed Abdul Kareem Hagedorn

