

they regard them as His peers and see them as being equal to Allah with regard to worship, love, veneration, and obedience.

The one who is like that – even after proof has been established and Allah’s oneness has been clearly explained – must be stubbornly opposed to Allah, or he must have turned away from pondering His signs and His creation. He does not have the slightest excuse for that; rather he is deserving of the punishment. These people who take others as equal to Allah do not say that they are equal to Him in terms of creating, granting provision and controlling; rather they think that they are equal to Him in terms of worship, so they worship them in order that they might bring them closer to Him.

The word «take» indicates that Allah has no equal; rather the polytheists regard some created beings as equal to Him, but this is no more than a notion in their minds, and is devoid of any meaning, as Allah says:

«...And yet they ascribe partners to Allah. Say: Name them; or do you presume to tell Allah of something that He does not know on earth, or is it [just] a show of words?...» (*ar-Ra'd* 13: 33)

«They are no more than names you have named, you and your forefathers, for which Allah has not sent down any authority. They follow nothing but conjecture...» (*an-Najm* 53: 23)

A created being cannot be equal to Allah, because He is the Creator and everything else is created; He is the Lord and Provider, and everything else is provided for. Allah is the One Who is independent of means, and you are dependent; He is perfect in all ways and you are lacking in all ways; Allah is the One Who brings benefits and causes harm, and created beings have no power to bring benefit or cause harm, for they have no power at all. Thus it is known for certain that those who take anything other than Allah as gods whom they regard as equal to Him, whether that is an angel, a Prophet, a righteous man, an idol or anything else, is misguided, and that Allah is the only One