

«Have you not seen the one who argued with Ibrâheem about his Lord» that is, have you not seen his audacity, ignorant behaviour, stubbornness and arguing about that concerning which there can be no doubt? Nothing made him do that except the fact that «Allah had granted him kingship», so he transgressed and thought that he was in control of his subjects. That prompted him to argue with Ibrâheem about the Lordship of Allah, and he claimed that he could do what Allah does. Ibrâheem said: «My Lord is He Who gives life and death» that is, He is the only One Who has full control. He singled out the giving of life and death for mention because they are the greatest levels of control. Giving life is the beginning of life in this world, and giving death is the starting point for the events of the hereafter. The one who was arguing with him said: «I give life and death», but he did not say: I am the one who gives life and death, because he did not claim to be independent of Allah or to have full control; rather he was claiming to do what He does and to control as He controls. He claimed that he could kill someone, thus having given him death, or he could let someone live, thus having given him life. When Ibrâheem saw the flaws in his argument and heard him say something that is not fit to cause doubt, let alone be proof for his argument, he ignored his argument and went on to say:

«But it is Allah Who brings the sun from the east» that is, he referred to something visible that everyone acknowledges, even that disbeliever. «so bring it from the west [if you can]». Here he was going along with his argument, if he was really telling the truth as he claimed. When Ibrâheem presented to him an argument that he could not counter, «Thus the one who disbelieved was dumbfounded» that is, he was confounded and could not give an answer; thus his argument was defeated and was proven to be specious and flawed. This is the state of the stubborn defender of falsehood who wants to wrestle with the truth and fight it; he will be defeated and subdued. Hence Allah (ﷻ) said: «Allah does not guide wrongdoing people»; rather He leaves