

fingers in his ears, for fear of death. In the case of the one who is caught in a downpour, that could help him to be safe, but in the case of the hypocrites, how could they become safe at the time when Allah encompasses them by His power and knowledge, so they cannot escape from Him or frustrate Him; rather He records their deeds and will requite them in full.

As they are suffering from deafness, dumbness and blindness in a metaphorical sense, and they are barred from the paths to faith, Allah (ﷻ) says: ﴿And if Allah willed, He could take away their hearing and their sight﴾ that is, in a physical sense. This is a warning to them aimed at making them afraid of punishment in this world, so that they will adopt caution and be deterred from some of their evil and hypocrisy. ﴿for Allah has power over all things﴾, hence nothing is beyond Him; by His power, if He wills something He does it, and no one can prevent Him or oppose Him.

In this verse and others like it we see a refutation of the Qadaris⁸ who say that their deeds are not subject to the power and control of Allah (ﷻ), as this verse shows that their deeds are among the things that are included in the words ﴿for Allah has power over all things﴾.



﴿يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اعْبُدُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ
الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ الْأَرْضَ فِرَاشًا وَالسَّمَاءَ بِنَاءً وَأَنْزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَخْرَجَ بِهِ
مِنَ الشَّجَرِ رِزْقًا لَكُمْ فَلَا تَجْعَلُوا لِلَّهِ أَنْدَادًا وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ﴾ (سورة البقرة: ٢٢)

(٢٢-٢١)

⁸ Qadari: follower of a theological school of thought that denied the divine will and decree and said that man has absolute free will, therefore whatever he does is purely his choice and his will is independent of the will of Allah.