

Do inanimate objects have feelings?

Translated by Rasheed ibn Estes Barbee

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Translator's note: Shaykh Uthaymeen explains verse 77 in Soorah Al Kahf.

فَوَجَدَا فِيهَا جِدَارًا يُرِيدُ أَنْ يَنْقَضَ

The more literal translation of this verse:

['Then they found therein a wall that wanted to collapse.']

Although from the six translations I have read, they all translate this verse in a similar fashion:

['Then they found therein a wall about to collapse']

Shaykh al-Uthaymeen (رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ)¹ explains this verse showing the more literal translation to be correct:

Shaykh al-Uthaymeen (رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ): He said:

فَوَجَدَا فِيهَا جِدَارًا يُرِيدُ أَنْ يَنْقَضَ فَأَقَامَهُ

[Then they found therein a wall that wanted to collapse so he set it up straight.]²

A wall that wanted to collapse; how could it want to fall, did the wall have desire?

The answer: yes it had desire, and that was its leaning. Its leaning was proof of its desire to collapse. And do not be amazed that inanimate objects have desire, as we have (the example of) mount Uhud. The Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)³ said about mount Uhud:

يُحِبُّنَا وَنُحِبُّهُ

"It loves us and we love it."⁴

And love is an attribute which is more than desire; and it (Uhud) is an inanimate object. As for the statement of some of the people who allow metaphors for the Qur'aan, and they say this is a euphemism and the wall did not have desire, there is no angle for them to say this. It wanted to fall, meaning it was leaning; it wanted to collapse so he set it up straight.

¹ (رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

² سورة الكهف - Soorah al-Kahf [18: 77]

³ (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

⁴ Saheeh Muslim