

THE TAA'IYYAH POEM ON DIVINE DECREE

WRITTEN BY: SHAIKHUL-ISLAAM IBN TAYMIYYAH (728 H.)

"His knowledge was so clearly evident in this poem that if one wanted to explain just this poem, he would need to write two large volumes in doing so." - Shaikh Taaj ud-Deen Muhammad bin ad-Dawri

TRANSLATED BY: FAISAL BIN ABDUL QAADIR BIN HASSAN ABU SULAYMAAN





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¹ The source for this translation is the publication of the poem - along with its explanation and verification - by Muhammad bin Ibrahim bin Hamd. It was published in 2006 as a Doctorate for the Islamic University of Umm Durmaan, Sudan. The poem is affirmed from Shaikhul-Islaam by more than one of the Scholars, including his students. Muhammad bin Ibrahim, the verifier of the text, said that it was mentioned by Hafidh al-Bazzar in *al-'Alaam al-'ilmiyyah* (pg. 28-29), 'Allaamah as-Safadi in *al-Waafi bil-Wafayaat* (7/30), Hafidh Ibn Kathir in *al-Bidaayah wan-Nihaayah* (14/211), Hafidh Ibn Hajar in *ad-Durrar al-Kaaminah* (1/166), and Imam ash-Shawkaani in *al-Badr at-Taali*' (1/71). It was also mentioned in *Majmoo' al-Fatawa* of Shaikhul-Islaam Ibn Taymiyyah (8/245-255).

The letter Written by the *Dhimmi*² and Given to Shaikhul-Islaam Ibn Taymiyyah (may Allah have mercy upon him):



1. O Scholars of the Religion there is a *Dhimmi* who is confused About your Religion, so direct him to the clearest of evidences

2. If my Lord decreed my disbelief according to your claim And He is not pleased with it for me, then what is the way for my deliverance [from this issue]?

> 3. He calls me [to guidance] but closes the door upon me. So is there A way for me to enter? Clarify for me my affair

4. He decreed my misguidance then said: "Be pleased with the Divine Decree" I am not pleased with that which has in it my misery

5. If I am, O people, pleased with what was decreed Then my Lord is not pleased with the ill-omen of my misfortunate

² A Dhimmi (نعمي) refers to a non-Muslim living in an Islamic country and given legal protection. The Scholars differed on the identity of the questioner. Some of the Scholars said it was a Shi'ee named Muhammad bin Abi Bakr as-Sakaakeeni. This was mentioned by Hafidh Ibn Kathir, Hafidh Ibn Hajar, as-Sakhaawi, and ash-Shawkaani. Other Scholars said it was a man named Ibn al-Baqaqi. This was mentioned by as-Subki; however, he mentioned in another instance that it was a *Mu'tazali* who hid his name. This was also something Shaikhul-Islaam Ibn Taymiyyah mentioned as well himself. Other Scholars said it was a Jew from the people of *Dhimmah*. This was mentioned by Hafidh al-Bazzaar, Ibn ad-Dawri, and as-Safadi, and at-Tufi. For more on this, see: *Qaseedatut-Taa'iyyah: Darasah, wa Tahqeeq, wa Sharh* (pg. 117-122) by Muhammad bin Ibrahim bin Hamd.

6. And should I be pleased with what my Master is not pleased with? Surely I am confused, so direct me on how to remove my confusion

> 7. If my Lord wills disbelief for me from [His] Will Then am I a disobedient One if I follow [His] Will?

8. And do I have ability to oppose His judgement? So by Allah, cure my rage with evidences The reply of Shaikhul-Islaam Ibn Taymiyyah (may Allah have mercy upon him) to the above lines of poetry:



1. Your question, O this one, is a question of a stubborn one Disputing with the Lord of the Throne, the Originator of the creation

- 2. The High company (i.e. the Angels) disputed this question Well before with Iblis, (who) is the origin of the calamity
- 3. And whoever argues with the Watcher over His creatures will return Upon his head (humiliated) towards the pit of Fire
- 4. And the one who disputes with Allah will be called on the Day of meeting To the Hellfire, altogether, the group of Qadarites

5. Whether they deny [decree], or strive [for it] in order to dispute With Allah using it, or argue falsely with it against the Legislation

- 6. And the origin of misguidance of the creation from every sect Is disputing the actions of the Deity due to [its] reason
- Verily they did not understand the wisdom for it [i.e. His actions] So then they became upon a type of Jahiliyyah

8. For verily all the universe was enjoined by His Action The will of the Lord of the creation, the Originator of the creation



9. The Essence of the Deity of the creation is existent with What it has of necessary, eternal Attributes

10. His Will with His Knowledge, then His Ability Are inseparable from the essence of Allah, the Judge of the issues

- 11. And His creating of what He wills from His creation Has wisdom in it and different types of mercy
 - 12. We are not even if we say [His] Will occurs -From the deniers of His upright signs

13. Rather the truth is that the judgement is for Allah alone For Him is the creation and commandment in the Legislation

14. He is the Praiseworthy King in every situation For Him is the dominion without the derogation of partnership (i.e. Shirk) 15. Whatever our Maula (Patron, Supporter), Deity wants, verily it Will occur. And what He does not will, will not occur by means of a plan

> 16. And His ability has no deficiency in it and His judgement Is general. So there is no specification for the case

> > 17. I intend by this that all of the occurrences Occur due to His ability and pure will

18. And our Owner, in all that He wills, Deserves praise and thanks that surpasses all possible praise

19. For verily He has in the creation blessings that are hidden And wisdoms that are above the wise intellects

20. Affairs which confuse the mind if one were to see From lofty wisdoms and every wonder



21. We believe Allah has ability, creation, and the Ability to uphold the judgement of [His] Will

22. So we affirm this all for our Deity And we affirm what is in that from every wisdom

- 23. And this station, in most times, the creation was unable [to understand] So they denied it, turned away from it, and returned to confusion
- 24. And verification of what is in this station is by clarifying its innermost affairs

And clarifying the truth [regarding the wisdom of Allah] in reality

25. It is the utmost goal for the traveller upon His sea (i.e. Legislation) However there is difficulty [in expanding on this issue] in the poetry of this poem [of mine]

26. Due to the need to clarify detailed knowledge Regarding the Attributes of our Maula (Patron, Supporter) the Honorable Deity

> 27. And His Beautiful Names and the rulings of His Religion And His actions in all of this creation



28. And this - and all praise is due to Allah - is apparently clear And His inspiration to the creation is the greatest blessing

- 29. And this was surely said and He wrote His Book Clarifying the cure for the sick souls
- 30. So your statement: "Why did He will" is similar to one Who said: "why did He (Allah) exist in eternity"
- 31. And so like that, the intellect invalidates the point of this question And its prohibition has come in every Legislation
 - 32. And in the universe, there are many specifications that indicate To the one who has a type of intellect that He (Allah) has a Will

33. And [the statement] that One being can only produce one thing³ Or the statement of allowance (التجويز) is a confused arrow⁴

34. There is no doubt in connecting every causation To what came before it [i.e. caused it] from the necessary reason

٣٥۔ بل الشأنُ في الأسبابِ أسبابِ ما ترى وإصدارها^(١) عن حكم محض الـ

35. Rather the affair regarding the means are what you see And they are issued by the pure judgement of [His] Will

36. And a your statement "Why did the Deity will [such and such]" is What made the intellect of the creation slip into the depths of the pit [of Hell]

37. For verily the Zoroastrians are those who say there is a Creator For benefit (good) and a Lord who creates the harm (evil)

38. Their question about the reason for evil lead Their leaders to [fall] into the doubt of dualism [of the existence of two Gods]

³ The philosophers claimed that Allah is One and only one thing can come from Him in relation to cause and causation. It is a false claim. See: *Qaseedatut-Taa'iyyah: Darasah, wa Tahqeeq, wa Sharh* (pg. 278-286)

⁴ That is: the Qadariyyah used to say: "If Allah punished us due to what He created in us, then it is allowed. Verily He punishes us for what we created [ourselves[". It is a false statement. See: *Qaseedatut-Taa'iyyah: Darasah, wa Tahqeeq, wa Sharh* (pg. 278))

39. And that the earlier Philosophical Atheists Said: "the action [i.e. the creation of the universe] was due to an ancient reason"

40. They searched for a reason in the universe after denying Him However they did not find it, so they were misguided by a misguidance

> 41. And from the origin of misguidance of every nation Of the followers of the Blessed, Prophetic Religion

42. Is their disputing in that [i.e. the reason for creation], thus their Shirk emerged And the clear signs [from the Prophets] disappeared after a time period

43. And sufficient for you as a refutation of what you asked In terms of an excuse rejected by all those who possess the natural disposition

> 44. So you criticize all those who defame You and accuse them of every blame/dispraise

45. And you give gifts to those who ally with you out of pure love/affinity And you hate everyone who opposes you from every sect

46. And their situation in every speech and action Is like your situation - O this questioner - according to the most correct evidence

47. And sufficient for you is to hold back from blaming every disbeliever



And every deviant who is outside the correct path

- 48. So it is necessary for you to turn away from every oppressor Over the people against [their] souls, wealth, and honor
- 49. And do not become angry one day at the one who sheds blood Or the thief [who steals] money belonging to a poor person
- 50. Nor with one who insults aloud the honor which is protected Nor one who has intercourse in the form of adultery

51. Nor one who hijacks the people on their path Nor one who corrupts the earth in every form

52. Nor one who gives false testimony through fabrication and lie Nor one who accuses chaste women of committing fornication/adultery

> 53. Nor one who corrupts the crops and cattle Nor a judge who judges the creation by way of bribery

54. And hold back your tongue from blaming every corrupter

And do not give a punishment to the one who commits a crime

55. Make easy the path of the liars who deliberately (lies) Upon their Lord from everyone who comes with a fabrication

56. And if they intend misguidance then follow Them in their type of corruption and [their intention to gain] leadership

57. And argue on behalf of the accursed Fir'awn when he transgressed And was drowned in the sea with a wrathful revenge

58. And every disbeliever, who associates partners with the Deity And another false deity (Taghut), disbeliever in the Prophethood

وقــوم لنــوح ثــم أصـحاب الأيكــةِ	٥٩۔ ڪعــادِ ونمــروذ ^(١) وقــومٍ لــصالح
مــن الأنبيــاء محييــاً للــشريعة ^(٢)	٦٠۔ وخاصم لموسی شم سائر من أتی
ونالوا من العاصي ⁽¹⁾ بليغ ⁽⁰⁾ العقوبة	٦١- على كونهم قد جاهدوا الناس إذ بغوا ^(r)
ولحظــةِ عــينٍ أو تحــرك شـعرةِ ^(٢)	٦٢- وإلا فكـلُّ الخلـقِ في كـلِّ لفظـةٍ
وڪلِّ حـراكِ بـل وڪل ^(v) سـكينةِ	٦٣ ـ وبطـشة كـفٍّ أو تخطـي قُديمـةٍ
فما أنت ^(۸) فيما قد أتيت بحجـةِ	٦٤ - هــم تحــت أقــدار الإلــهِ وحكمــهِ
فعالَ ^(١) ردىً طرداً ^(١٠) لهذي المقيسةِ	٦٥- وَهَبَّكَ رفعت اللومَ عن كل فاعلٍ
عن الناس طُرًا عند كلِّ قبيحةِ	٦٦- فهل يُمْكِننْ ^(١١) رفعُ الملامِ جميعِهِ
وتركُ الورى الإنصافَ بين الرعيةِ	٦٧- وتركُ عقوبات الذين قد اعتدوا

59. Like 'Ad, Namrood, and the people of Saleh And the people of Nuh, then the dwellers in the wood [i.e. the people of Madyan (Midian)

60. And then dispute with Musa (may peace be upon him) and then the rest who came From the Prophets, the revivers of the Legislation

61. For their striving against the people when they transgressed And [they] gave the mature, disobedient person a punishment [for his disobedience] 62. And otherwise, every creation in every word And every glance of the eye or movement of the hair

63. And every grasp of the palm and step of the two feet And every movement rather every stillness

64. Are under the decree of the Deity and His judgement So you do not have proof in that which you have brought

65. And sufficient for you is to lift the blame from every doer Of evil who follows this analogy (i.e. this line of thinking)

> 66. So is it possible to lift all blame From all the people for every ugly deed?

67. And leave off punishment on those who transgress And for the creation to leave off justice between the citizens?

ولا يعقبن(٢) عـادٍ بمثـل الجريمـةِ	٦٨- فلا تُضمنَنْ ^(۱) نفسٌ ومالٌ بمثلهِ
قبولٌ لقول النذل: ما وجه حيلتي	٦٩۔ وهل في عقول الناس أو في طباعهم
صــــبيِّ ومجنـــون وكـــلِّ بهيمـــةِ	٧٠- ويكفيك نقضاً ما بجسمِ ابنِ آدمٍ
وفيمــا يــشاء الله أكمــلُ حكمــةِ	٧١- من الألم المقضيِّ من ^(٣) غير حيلةٍ
يُظـن ⁽¹⁾ بخلـق الفعـل ثـم العقوبـة	٧٢۔ إذا كان في هـذا لـه حكمـةٌ فمـا
عن الفعلِ فِعل العبد عند() الطبيعة	٧٣۔ فکيـف ^(٥) ومِـنْ هـذا عـذاب مُولُّـدٌ
وكلِّ بتقـديرٍ لـرب البريـة ^(٧)	٧٤۔ كآكِلِ سـمِّ أوجب الموتَ أكلُـه
وتعذيبُ نـارٍ مثـل ^(^) جرعـةِ غـصةِ	٧٥۔ فَكُفُرُك يا هـذا كـسمِّ أكلْتَـهُ
يعاقب إمسا بالقسضا أو بــشرعة	٧٦-ألست ترى في هذه الدار مَنْ جنى
كذلك (١) في الأخرى بسلا مَتْنَويَّةِ	٧٧- ولا عُـذُرَ للجـاني بتقـدير خـالقٍ
لتقدير (١٠) عقبى الذنب إلا بتوبةِ	٧٨- وتقدير ربُّ الخلق للـذنب موجِبٌّ

68. So a soul will not be guaranteed nor wealth like it And 'Ad will then not be criticized for committing the similar crime 69. And is it in the intellect of man and their nature To accept this lowly statement? What is the way for my solution?

70. And sufficient for you as a refutation is what is in the body of the son of Adam A child, an insane person, and every animal

> 71. From pain decreed without a choice And in what Allah wills is the most complete of wisdom

72. If there is wisdom in that then what Is [your] opinion about the creation of an action then the consequence [for it]?

> 73. So how [is this]? And from this a consequence is produced For an action performed by a slave naturally

74. Just like eating poison which leads to the death of the one who eats it And everything is due to the decree of the Lord of the creation

> 75. So your disbelief, O this one, is like the poison you ate And the consequence of the fire is like a choking gulp

76. Have you not seen in this abode the one who commits a crime Is punished either by decree or by the Legislation?

77. And there is no excuse for the criminal using the decree of the Creator Likewise in the hereafter without a doubt

78. The decree of the Lord of the creation for a sin leads To the decree of a punishment after the sin, except with the repentance

- 79. And also what is from the category of repentance [i.e. actions] that remove The punishment for the wicked actions of the creation
 - 80. Like good deeds which wipe out the sins and a supplication that is Answered from a criminal or perhaps intercession

81. And the statement of the one who takes an oath of evil [saying]: "Verily it was Decreed upon me" is like the statement of a wolf saying: "This is my nature"

82. And His decree of an action leads to a punishment Just like His decree of all things is for a reason

83. So will the excuse of the blameworthy one benefit him If he says: "This is how he was created"? Or should he say that was my mistake?

> 84. As for blame and punishment, then they emphasize for the one Whose nature it is to perform evil deeds

85. Verily if you hope to respond to what will hopefully Save you from the great Fire of the Deity

86. Then hold fast to the Lord of the creation, and worship Him with humility Wanting that He guides you towards the reality

87. And submit your soul towards the truth and listen And do not turn away from the upright idea

88. And what is clear from the truth, then do not leave it off And do not disobey the one who calls you to the most upright Legislation

89. And leave off the Religion of customs and do not follow it And return from the path of the nation that [Allah] is angry with (i.e. Jews)

90. And whoever is misguided from the truth then do not follow him Measure what people are upon according to justice

91. Here the characteristics of guidance become apparent to you By the glad tidings from the one who came with the pure Religion [i.e. the Prophet]

92. And by the Religion of Ibrahim, that Imaam And the Religion of the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ), the best of the Creation

93. The Most Merciful will not accept a Religion other than it With it the Honorable Messengers naturally came with 94. And *al-Haashir*⁵, the Seal [of Prophethood] came with that which Contains all good in its general message

95. And he reported from the Lord of the slaves that Whoever turns away from Him will be in the worst of sin

96. So these are signs from the slave for the confused As for His guidance, then it is the act of Lordship



97. And the absence of guidance from the creation does not benefit one Who turns away from Him. Rather it (the decree) will occur without any argument

98. And the one who uses the decree of His Lord as an evidence His punishment will be increased. Like the sick one who does not take medicine for his sickness

> 99. And as for our pleasure with the decree, then we were Only commanded to be pleased with the likes of calamity

100. Like sickness, poverty, then humiliation, and isolation And what is from harm [and occurs] without the committing of a crime

101. As for the actions detested to us

⁵ The name (الْحَاشِرُ) was explained by the Prophet (ﷺ) when he said" I am Al-Haashir who will be the first to be resurrected, the people being resurrected thereafter" as it comes in the Hadith reported by al-Bukhari (no. 3532) and Muslim (no. 2354)

Then there is no text that comes to be pleased with it out of obedience

102. And some of the People from the possessors of Knowledge have said: there is no pleasure In performing disobedience and major sins

103. For verily the Deity of the creation is not pleased with it for us So we are not pleased with one whom the wrath is upon due to the Will of Allah

104. And a group said: we are pleased with His decree And we are not pleased with the one upon whom the decree afflicted, [possessing] the worse of characteristics

105. And a group said: we are pleased with it being annexed to Him (Allah) And what comes from us, we receive it with wrath

إليه(') وما فينا فنلقى(') بسخطةِ	١٠٥ ـ وقــال فريــقّ: نرتــضي بإضــافةٍ
لمخلوقه كسبّ كفعل") الغريزة(؛)	١٠٦ ـ كمــا أنهــا للــرب خلــقّ وأنهــا
ونسخط (٢) من وجه اكتساب الخطيئة (٨)	١٠٧_ فنرضى ⁽⁰⁾ من الوجه الذي هو خلقه ⁽¹⁾
لمسا أمسر المسولى وإن بمسشيئة	١٠٨ ومعصيةُ العبدِ المكلفِ تركُه
بـــأن عبــادي ^(١) في جحــيم وجنــةِ ^(١٠)	١٠٩ فال المسه الخلق حقَّ مقالُه
بـل الـبهم في الآلام ـ أيضاً ـ ونعمـة	١١٠۔ كما أنهم في هـذه الـدار هكـذا
فروق بعلمٍ ثم أيدٍ ورحمةٍ	١١١- وحكمتُه العليا اقتضت ما اقتضت من الـ
يقـدّره نحـو العـداب ^(١١) بعـزةِ	١١٢- يسوق أولى التعذيب بالسبب الذي
بأعمال صدق في رجاءٍ وخــشيةِ	١١٣- ويهدي أولي ^(١٢) التنعيم نحو نعيمهم

106. And just as it is the creation of the Lord, it is also The action of the creation, [not] like the actions from instincts

107. So we are pleased with it from the angle it was created And we hate it from the angle from which the sin was earned

108. And the disobedience of the legally responsible slave is due to him leaving off

What the Maula (Patron, Supporter) commanded even if it is from the Will [of Allah]⁶

109. For verily the statement of the Deity of the creation is truth: "That My slaves will be in the Hellfire and Paradise"

110. Just as they are like this in this abode Rather there are animals in pain and [others] in bounty

111. And His high wisdom necessitates what it necessitates Of differences among the creation in knowledge, strength, and mercy

- 112. He leads those destined for punishment, by a means which He decreed, towards the punishment out of His Might
- 113. And He guides those destined for bounty towards their bounty Through truthful actions done out of hope and awe [of Him]



- 114. And the command of the Deity of the creation clarified what Will lead the people destined for bounty towards happiness
- 115. So whoever is from the people of happiness, then His Commands Are impressed on him through the facilitation of [His] action

⁶ That is: even though the action enters into the generality of the Will of Allah - as all things occur due to His Will - it is an act of disobedience from the slave and he is responsible for it.

116. And whoever is from the people of misery, then he does not care About His commands nor prohibitions due to the facilitation of his misery

117. And there is no escape for the slave from what is decreed However, it is chosen: the good of it and the evil of it

118. So he (a slave) is not one who is forced, absent of a will However, he is one who wills [due to the] creation of a will [for him]

119. And from the most wondrous thing is that a will has been created for the creation Through it he chooses guidance and misguidance

120. So your statement: "Should I choose to leave off His Judgement"? Is just like your statement: "Should I choose to leave off [my] will"?

121. And choose to leave off performing misguidance And if you can achieve that abandonment, then you made repentance

122. And that is possible, however such a person is holding back From what Allah wills for the slave [of good]⁷

معـــانٍ إذا انحلــت بفهـــم غريـــزة	١٢٣۔ فدونك فافهم ما به قد أُجبْتَ مِنْ
ولله رب الخلــق أكمــل ^(۱) مدحــةِ	١٢٤ أشارت إلى أصل يشير إلى الهدى
على المصطفى المختار خير البرية ⁽¹⁾	١٢٥۔ وصلى إله الخلق جل جلاله

123. So hold fast and understand what you were answered with From meanings which settle a natural (sound) mind

124. It [this reply] points to the foundation, it points to guidance And Allah is the Lord of the creation [deserving] the most complete praise

125. And may the blessings of the Lord of the creation, the Almighty and SublimeBe upon the Chosen one, *al-Mukhtaar*, the best of the creation

⁷ That is: by not taking the means to obtain the good Allah wants for him

[End of Text]



Hafidh Ibn al-Hajar (may Allah have mercy upon him) said: "From the intelligence of this Scholar (i.e. Ibn Taymiyyah), and he has great affairs in relation to this, is that Muhammad bin Abi Bakr as-Sakaakeeni wrote some verses of poetry to him- upon the tongue of a Dhimmi-detesting Divine Decree...so Ibn Taymiyyah read over it, folded one leg over the other, and then responded in his sitting with one hundred and nineteen lines of poetry before standing up" [ad-Durrar al-Kaaminah (1/166)]

