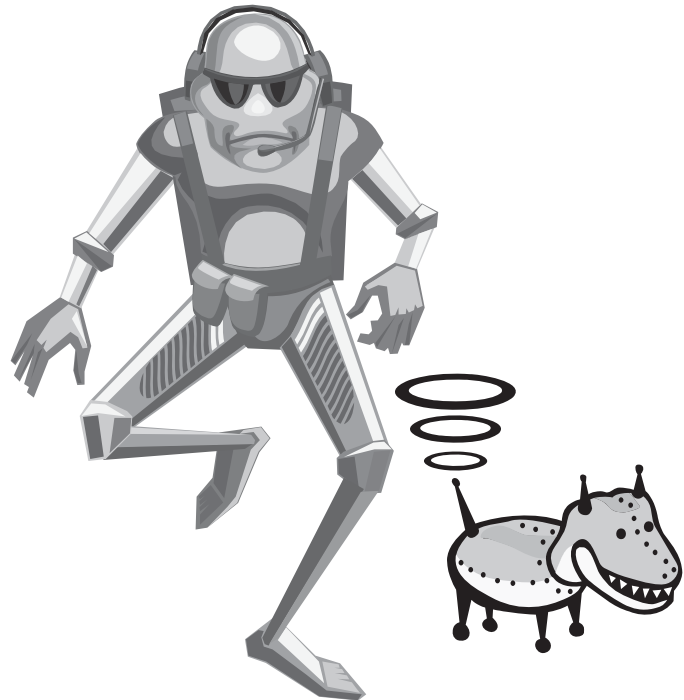


Why should we worship Allah (swt)

Sample Lesson:
Level 5



A Big Mess

Concept Check:

- Everything in the Universe follows Allah's rules
- We worship Allah for our own benefits
- Since Allah knows everything and He knows the future, He can make the best rules
- More than one god would cause confusion
- We cannot have any god besides Allah
- We should not partially follow the orders of Allah
- Allah selected Islam for us

Let us travel to an imaginary land, where you are a genius scientist who makes robots. In this Roboland, you have created several fancy robots. You have programmed their computer brains, so they can work smoothly. These programs are the rules of Roboland so that the robots will work without any problem.

Mr. ChefRobo cooks for everyone; Mr. GreenRobo tends the garden; and Ms EduRobo teaches the little kids.

DocRobo works in the hospital fixing the electric wires of other robots, and RuffRobo guards the yard.

One day, SillyRobo Jr., who was in charge of turning on the lights, decides not to follow the rules. He assumed there is no need to turn on the switch. Roboland turned dark. JunkRobo, who was a patient in DocRobo's hospital fizzleed out as soon as power failed. ChefRobo's waffles remained soggy, and GreenRobo's electric lawn mower smashed the TreeRobo, which fell on Ms EduRobo's class room. Your Roboland just turned into a big mess, because SillyRobo Jr. refused to obey your rules—the rules of its creator.

Everything needs a rule: Just as in Roboland, everything in this real world also needs rules. A river cannot flow upstream, and a rock cannot float in the air. A lion cannot break the rule to live in the ocean. An eagle cannot start living under water, or a whale on top of a tree. The sun cannot take a day off next Sunday. We also need some rules so that we can be the way our Creator had planned.

Meaning of worship: Worship means to show reverence and respect to Allah (swt). We can show respect only if we follow the rules set up by Allah (swt).

Some of these rules are related to ritualistic worships, and some rules are related to daily activities. Examples of ritualistic worships are salah, sawm (fasting) or sacrifice. How we behave to each other, how we conduct business and what we eat are some examples of worship through activities. Allah (swt) has set up rules for our behavior to others, business transaction, dietary requirements and many others. When we follow these rules as prescribed by Allah (swt), we are worshipping Him.

There are some rules of Allah (swt) that we cannot change even if we want to—we cannot make the kidneys to think; we cannot eat through our ear holes, we cannot make our toenails see the world. Whether a person is a Muslims or not, the person still has to follow the rules made by our Creator, such as in using his or her body parts.

Who makes the rules? In the Roboland, you had made some rules, because you were the creator. SillyRobo should not have made his own rules—which started the mess. SillyRobo did not know how his wrong judgment would affect others.

لَوْ كَانَ فِيهِمَا آلِهَةٌ إِلَّا اللَّهُ لَفَسَدَتَا ۚ فَسُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَرْشِ
عَبَّأً يَصِفُونَ ﴿٢٢﴾

Had there been in them (i.e. in the heaven and in the earth) deities except Allah both these would certainly have been disordered. Therefore glory be to Allah, the Author of the Throne, above what they attribute!

In this real world too, the rules should be made by who created us. We may call this Creator as Allah,

(Al-Anbiya 21:22)

God, Elohim or Ishwar.^{17:110} The name of the Creator does not matter. The crucial matter is that rules should be made by someone who has full knowledge of every thing; has knowledge of past, present and future; and had created this universe. As you were owner of the robots, the owner of this universe is the Creator.

Who is benefited from worship? In Roboland, may be you were benefited when everything followed your rules. Not so in this world. Allah (swt) is not in need of money or food. When we follow the rules of Creator, our society works better, we become successful in our lives. When we sacrifice an animal, we are not feeding the meat to Allah (swt).^{22:37} When we follow the rules, we are the ones who harvest the benefits of this world.^{7:128}

هُوَ الْحَيُّ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ فَادْعُوهُ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ ط الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٦٥﴾

He is the ever-Living, there is no deity but He. Therefore you call upon Him, making religion exclusively for Him. All praise belongs to Allah, Rabb of all the worlds!

(Al-Mu'min 40:65)

Any god here, please raise your hand: Instead of Allah (swt), may we select someone else to whom we may worship? It would be silly to worship a person, who becomes sick and dies. A person cannot have knowledge of everything. He or she will need food to survive. When a bee stings her, it hurts. A human does not have the power to create us, because she herself was created by someone else, the Creator.

Along with Allah (swt), can we have another god or a band of gods? To be God, one must be the Creator. God must be eternal, one who does not die. God must be all-Powerful. No one, no statue, no powerful person, no one alive or dead can claim these qualities, except One and Only Allah (swt).^{22:34}

May we worship none? Is it necessary to worship Allah (swt)? Can we not live by ourselves, by

اتَّبِعُوا مَا أَنْزَلَ إِلَيْكُم مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا مِنْ دُونِهِ أَوْلِيَاءَ ط قَلِيلًا مَّا تَذَكَّرُونَ ﴿٣٥﴾

“You follow what has been revealed to you from your Rabb, and do not follow besides Him any patron. Little it is what you mind!”

(Al-A'raf 7:3)

setting some moral values as our guiding rules? Although we may not be performing the ritual worships as prescribed by Allah (swt), but we are still under Allah's rules. A problem of setting our own rules is due to our inability to see the future. What we

think is good for us today may prove to be a blunder tomorrow. History is littered with examples of people who thought their own rules would be good, and they failed miserably in few years.

May we partially worship Allah? Would it be good to select some rules from Allah (swt) that makes sense to us, and change some other rules that we think are hard? Most likely, our edited rules will turn out to be wrong. Governments of every country keep on changing their rules, because over a

period of time they find that their rules were not good. The safest way for us would be to follow the rules created by the Creator, who knows everything, and who does not want any benefit from us.

Why Islam? If we can call the Creator as Allah, God, *Ishwar* or Elohim, is it also fine if we follow any religion other than Islam? Most of the religions that we see now were also given by Allah (swt). However, He gave these religions for a small group of people living in a small area, for a certain period of time only. Their scriptures were not preserved properly. Many of these scriptures were changed by people.^{2:75} This means people have added or removed rules given by God in those scriptures.^{19:59} The Qur'ān is the last Divine Book, and it has been preserved the way it was revealed. No rules have been removed, and no new rules have been inserted in the Qur'ān. If we follow the Qur'ān, then we are following the rules set up by our Creator who owns us.
