



Question:

According to Holy Qur'an, Allah told the angels to bow down to Hazrat Adam (a.s.); everybody did except Iblis. Was Iblis an angel or Jinn?

Answer:

Here are 3 verses which provide the answer: i. and when we said to the angels, "Bow down to Adam"; so they bowed down except Iblis. He was from the Jinns, and he broke the command of his Lord. (18:50) ii. He created man from sounding clay like earthen pottery, and created jinns from smokeless fire. (55: 14, 15) iii. Said He, "What prevented you that you did not bow down when I did command you?" Said (Shaitan), "I am better than him; you created me of fire and You created him (Adam) of clay". These verses clearly show that Iblis was not from amongst the angels he was a Jinn who was created from fire. Then why was he condemned for disobeying a command given to the angels? It was because he was amongst the group of the angels who had been ordered to bow down to Adam, and since he formed one of the members of the group, the order also pertained to him as the third ayat clearly shows that he was 'ordered'. If in a group there are, let us say, more men than women (as in Ayat of Tat-hir), then the whole group is referred to in masculine gender and the women are automatically included in it, even if the pronouns etc. are masculine. This rule is called the rule of 'Taghlib' (Rule of Predominance). Likewise, in that group of angels there was only one Jinn (Shaitan); therefore, the order covered the group collectively including Satan. That is why he was condemned by Allah for his disobedience. Even Satan understood it perfectly. That is why he did not argue that he had not prostrated because the order was addressed, not to him, but to the angels. Sayyed Mohammed Musawi

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