
Allaah and the name “an-Noor”

source: *silsilat ul-hudaa wan noor* – the series of guidance and light – tape no. 514

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Question no.4: “Some of the students of knowledge found it strange that you explained Allaah’s saying, the Most High – ‘Allaah is the Light of the heavens and the earth’¹ – to be that He illuminates them² and that He does not have the name ‘an-Noor’ (The Light); so we would like a detailed explanation about this.”

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)³ answers:

“I don’t have any detailed explanation except that I don’t know of an-Noor being one of the names of Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic, in an authentic hadeeth. Rather, the Prophet (عليه السلام)⁴ had said that ‘His Veil is light’ – when he was asked ‘Did you see your Lord?’ he had said: ‘A light,⁵ how could I see Him?’^{6 7 8} And (also) in the narration of Abu Moosaa al-Ash’aree in Saheeh Muslim, he said ‘His Veil is light...’⁹

asaheeha translations

¹ Surat un-Noor; 24:35

² Tafseer Ibn Katheer and Tafseer as-Sa’dee mention similar statements, with both literal meanings and also metaphorical ones such as ‘Allaah is the One who guides those in the heavens and the earth,’ ‘His Book is a light,’ ‘His legislation is a light’ etc.

³ (rahimahullaah) (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) May Allaah have mercy on him

⁴ (عليه السلام) (alaihis-salaam) Peace be upon him

⁵ it was not clearly heard that the Shaykh said ‘A light’ due to a problem with the tape recording, but it is part of the *hadeeth*

⁶ Saheeh Muslim no.178; it was also narrated in this same chapter with the wording: ‘I saw a light’

⁷ what is meant by ‘A light, how could I see Him?’ is the light of the Veil, which is mentioned in another *hadeeth*: ‘His Veil is light,’ and it is also mentioned in another *hadeeth*: ‘I saw a light’ – so its meaning is that ‘how could I see Him while the light of the Veil had prevented me from seeing Him?’; refer to Shaykh ‘Abdul Muhsin al-‘Abbaad in *Sharh Sunan at-Tirmidhee*, tape no.361

⁸ the meaning of ‘A light, how could I see Him?’ is: ‘His Veil is a light, so how could I see Him?’; refer to Imaam an-Nawawee in his explanation of Saheeh Muslim, part 3, p. 12

⁹ Saheeh Muslim no.179