

اللغة العربية

«سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ»



Question

There are two common translations of the statement **سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ** :

- 1) Allāh is free from all imperfections
- 2) Glory be to Allāh

Which of these two translations, or any other, would our respected Shaykh use to most accurately explain the meaning of this great and incredibly important statement?

Faḍīlat al-Shaykh Dr. V. Abdur Rahim (حفظه الله) replies:



The word سُبْحَانَ is اسْمٌ مَّصْدَرٌ of the verb سَبَّحَ (ii) which means:

'to glorify Allāh, i.e., to declare Him free from any defect or blemish, or from any attribute unbecoming of Him.'

It is مَفْعُولٌ مُطْلَقٌ because it is مَنصُوبٌ.

It is الْمَصْدَرُ النَّائِبُ عَنْ فِعْلِهِ, i.e., a *maṣḍar* functioning as its verb.

So سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ means:

سَبَّحُوا اللَّهَ, 'Glorify Allāh.'

And, as mentioned before, glorification means declaring Him free from all defects and blemishes.

abdur rahim