75395 - Was the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) Noor (Light) or Bashar (a Human Being)?

the question

Was Prophet Muhammad a "Noor" or "Bashar", and is it true that he had no shade, even in light?

Detailed answer

Our Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is the leader of all the sons of Adam, and he is a human being, one of the sons of Adam. He was born from two parents, he ate food and married women, he got hungry and fell sick, and he felt joy and sorrow. One of the clearest signs of his humanity is that Allah caused him to die as He causes all souls to die, but what distinguishes the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) from others is Prophethood and Revelation.

Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

“Say (O Muhammad): I am only a man like you. It has been revealed to me that your Ilaah (God) is One Ilaah (God ___ i.e. Allah)”

[al-Kahf 18:110]

The state of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) in his humanity is the same as that of all the Prophets and Messengers. Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

“And We did not create them (the Messengers, with) bodies that ate not food, nor were they immortals”

[al-Anbiya’ 21:8]

Allah condemned those who wondered at the humanity of the Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), as He says (interpretation of the meaning):

“And they say: Why does this Messenger (Muhammad) eat food, and walk about in the markets (as we)…?”

[al-Furqaan 25:8]

It is not permissible to overstep the mark with regard to what the Qur’aan states about the message and humanity of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). For example, it is not permissible to describe him (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) as being noor (light) or as casting no shadow, or to say that he was created from light. Rather this is a kind of exaggeration which the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) forbade when he said: “Do not exaggerate about me as was exaggerated about ‘Eesa (Jesus) ibn Maryam. Say: the slave of Allah and His Messenger.” Narrated by al-Bukhaari, 6830.

Moreover it is proven that the angels are the ones who were created from light, not any of the sons of Adam. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “The angels were created from light, and Iblees was created from smokeless fire, and Adam (peace be upon him) was created from what has been described to you.” Narrated by Muslim, 2996.

Shaykh al-Albaani (may Allah have mercy on him) said in al-Silsilah al-Saheehah (458):

This indicates that the well known hadeeth (report) that is in circulation among people – “The first thing that Allah created was the light of your Prophet, O Jaabir” – is false, and so are other similar ahaadeeth (narrations) which say that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was created from light. This hadeeth clearly indicates that the angels are the only ones who are created from light, not Adam and his sons, so pay heed and do not be negligent. End quote.

The Standing Committee for Issuing Fatwas (religious verdicts)was asked the following question:

Here in Pakistan the scholars of the Bareilawi sect believe that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) cast no shadow, which indicates that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was not human. Is this hadeeth saheeh (authentic) which says that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) had no shadow?

They replied:

This view is false and goes against the texts of the Qur'aan and the saheeh Sunnah which indicate that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was human and did not differ in his human make-up from other people. He had a shadow like any other human. The Prophethood with which Allah honoured him did not alter the fact that he was human as Allah created him, with a father and mother. Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

"Say (O Muhammad): I am only a man like you. It has been revealed to me that your Ilaah (God) is One Ilaah (God ___i.e. Allah)"

[al-Kahf 18:110]

"Their Messengers said to them: We are no more than human beings like you"

[Ibraaheem 14:11]

With regard to the report that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was created from the light of Allah, this is a fabricated hadeeth. End quote.

Fatawa al-Lajnah al-Daa'imah, 1/464

See also question no. 4509 and 6084.