

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Class Notes – Lesson 23

[إِثْبَاتُ الْمَكْرِ وَالْكَيْدِ لِلَّهِ تَعَالَى عَلَى مَا يَلِيْقُ بِهِ]

وَقَوْلُهُ: ﴿ وَهُوَ شَدِيدُ الْمِحَالِ ﴾ [الرعد: ١٣]

وَقَوْلُهُ: ﴿ وَمَكْرُوهًا وَمَكْرًا اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ خَيْرُ الْمَاكِرِينَ ﴾ [آل عمران: ٥٤]

وَقَوْلُهُ: ﴿ وَمَكْرُوهًا مَكْرًا وَمَكْرَنَا مَكْرًا وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ ﴾ [النمل: ٥٠]

وَقَوْلُهُ: ﴿ إِنَّهُمْ يَكِيدُونَ كَيْدًا ۗ وَأَكِيدُ كَيْدًا ﴾ [الطارق: ١٥-١٦]

[AFFIRMING THE ATTRIBUTES OF PLOTTING AND PLANNING REGARDING ALLAH AS IT BEFITS HIM]

And His saying: He is inexorable in His power. [al-Ra'ad: 13]

And His saying: They plotted and Allah plotted, but Allah is the best of plotters. [aal-Imran: 54]

And His saying: So they hatched a plot, and We hatched a plot, while they were unaware. [al-Naml: 50]

And His saying: They are hatching a plot. And I too am hatching a plot. [al-Tariq: 15-16]

[إِثْبَاتُ الْمَكْرِ وَالْكَيْدِ لِلَّهِ تَعَالَى عَلَى مَا يَلِيْقُ بِهِ]

[AFFIRMING THE ATTRIBUTES OF PLOTTING AND PLANNING REGARDING ALLAH AS IT BEFITS HIM]

- In this part of his treatise, the Sheikh mentions the evidences from the Quran which affirm Allah's Attributes of *Makr* (Plotting) and *Kayd* (Secret Planning). These two attributes are related to His Actions (*Af'aal*), which He does whenever He wills and however He wills, in a manner befitting His Majesty. It is obligatory to establish them in their real sense (*haqeeqah*) because Allah has affirmed and established them for Himself.
- The terms *kayd* and *makr* return to a similar meaning, which is to inflict harm on an opponent by taking hidden and secretive steps, such that they do not perceive you. They can be praiseworthy in certain situations and blameworthy in others.
 - They are praiseworthy when they are done against those who deserve it as a way of punishing them. In this case, they are considered as justice.
 - They are blameworthy if they are done against those who do not deserve it. In this case, they are considered as treachery and oppression.

- This is why Allah is never described with them except by way of opposition to those who are plotting, in which case they are restricted and praiseworthy. Allah can never be described with these characteristics in a general and unrestricted way. It cannot be said of Allah that He is *al-Makir* (The Plotter) or *al-Kaa'id* (The Planner) because these names can imply either praiseworthiness or blameworthiness, and Allah can only ever be described with that which is praiseworthy.

وَقَوْلُهُ: ﴿وَهُوَ شَدِيدُ الْمِحَالِ﴾ [الرعد: ١٣]

And His saying: He is inexorable in His power. [al-Ra'ad: 13]

- {وَهُوَ شَدِيدُ الْمِحَالِ} – '**He is inexorable in His power**'. The term *mihaal* can mean punishment, meaning that Allah is severe in His punishment. It can also mean to plot (*al-makr*), meaning that Allah is strong in His plotting. Based on the latter interpretation, the word would be derived from *heelah* (ploy), which is to plan a trap for your opponent until they fall into it. It would seem that the Sheikh intended this meaning, since he mentioned the *ayah* alongside the *ayaat* of *al-Makr* and *al-Kayd*.
- When the *ayah* is read in its entirety, it can be understood that the Attribute of *Mihaal* is mentioned in the context of retribution against those who dispute about Allah, in which case, it is a praiseworthy Attribute which is attributed to Allah. Allah says:

﴿وَهُمْ يُجَادِلُونَ فِي اللَّهِ وَهُوَ شَدِيدُ الْمِحَالِ﴾

And they dispute about Allah, and He is inexorable in His power. [al-Ra'ad: 13]

وَقَوْلُهُ: ﴿وَمَكَرُوا وَمَكَرَ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ خَيْرُ الْمَاكِرِينَ﴾ [آل عمران: ٥٤]

And His saying: They plotted and Allah plotted, but Allah is the best of plotters. [aal-Imran: 54]

- This *ayah* was revealed concerning Prophet Isa. The Jews plotted to assassinate him, but Allah was greater than them in planning. Allah raised him to Himself and placed a resemblance to him amongst them, thus foiling their plot.
- {وَمَكَرُوا} – '**They plotted**'. Meaning, the Jews amongst Banu Isra'eel who plotted to kill Isa and crucify him.
- {وَمَكَرَ اللَّهُ} – '**And Allah plotted**'. By placing a resemblance to Isa amongst them and raising Isa to Himself.
- {وَاللَّهُ خَيْرُ الْمَاكِرِينَ} – '**But Allah is the best of plotters**'. Meaning, He is the strongest and most capable of causing harm to those who deserve it, without them knowing or expecting it.

وَقَوْلُهُ: ﴿وَمَكَرُوا مَكْرًا وَمَكَرْنَا مَكْرًا وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ﴾ [النمل: ٥٠]

And His saying: So they hatched a plot, and We hatched a plot, while they were unaware. [al-Naml: 50]

- This *ayah* was revealed concerning Prophet Saalih. The nine group in the city he was in plotted to secretly kill him and his family during the night.
- {وَمَكَرُوا مَكْرًا} – '**So they hatched a plot**'. Meaning the disbelievers who plotted to secretly kill Prophet Saalih and his household.
- {وَمَكَرْنَا مَكْرًا} – '**And we hatched a plot**'. Meaning, Allah recompensed them for their evil plot by destroying them and saving Prophet Saalih. It was said that when they went out to kill him, they headed out to a cave waiting for nightfall. The cave then closed in upon them, and they perished, while no harm touched Saalih and his household.
- {وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ} – '**While they were unaware**'. Of the plot of Allah. They did not anticipate it, nor were they expecting it.

وَقَوْلُهُ: ﴿إِنَّهُمْ يَكِيدُونَ كَيْدًا ۗ وَأَكِيدُ كَيْدًا﴾ [الطارق: ١٥-١٦]

And His saying: They are hatching a plot. And I too am hatching a plot. [al-Tariq: 15-16]

- These *ayaat* were revealed regarding the disbelievers of Makkah.
- {إِنَّهُمْ يَكِيدُونَ كَيْدًا} – ‘**They are hatching a plot**’. They plotted to destroy the true religion that the Prophet ﷺ came with, and to drive people away from him and his call. Allah mentioned some of their plots in Surat al-Anfaal.

﴿وَأَذِمْ مَكْرُ بِكَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لِيُثْبِتُوكَ أَوْ يَقْتُلُوكَ أَوْ يُخْرِجُوكَ﴾

And remember when the disbelievers plotted against you to hold you, or to kill you, or to expel you. [al-Anfaal: 30]

- They plotted to either imprison him, kill him or banish him. Taking the advice of Iblis who came to them in the form of an old man from Najd, they reached the decision to kill him.
- {وَأَكِيدُ كَيْدًا} – ‘**And I too am hatching a plot.**’ Meaning, that Allah is countering their plot with a greater plot that is more calculative and accurate. They never achieved their plot. Rather, the Prophet ﷺ left his house, scattering dust on the heads of the ten men from each clan appointed to kill him. He left, without them perceiving him. The plot of Allah was therefore stronger because Allah rescued His Messenger ﷺ from them and allowed him to perform *Hijrah*.

Review questions

1. Are Allah’s Attributes of *Makr* and *Kayd* related to His Actions or to His Essence? What is the correct methodology of establishing them?
2. Why is it incorrect to name Allah *al-Maakir* or *al-Kaa’id*?
3. ‘*They plotted and Allah plotted, but Allah is the best of plotters.*’ [aal-Imran: 54] – Who is this referring to? What was their plot, and how did Allah counter it with His plot?
4. ‘*So they hatched a plot, and We hatched a plot, while they were unaware.*’ [al-Naml: 50] – Who is this referring to? What was their plot, and how did Allah counter it with His plot?
5. ‘*They are hatching a plot. And I too am hatching a plot.*’ [al-Tariq: 15-16] – Who is this referring to? What was their plot, and how did Allah counter it with His plot?