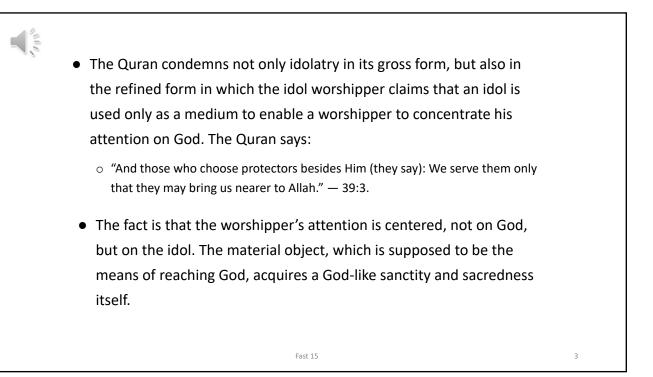


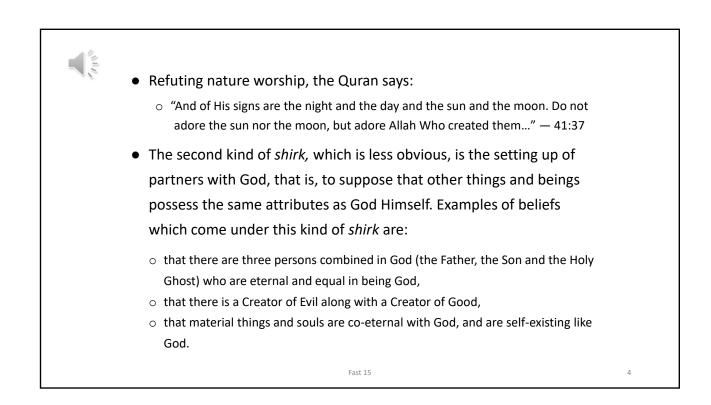
## Fast 15: The oneness of God — Various forms of shirk

• The various forms of *shirk* mentioned in the Holy Quran are an indication of the ennobling message underlying the teaching of Divine Unity. These forms are summed up in the verse:

Fast 15



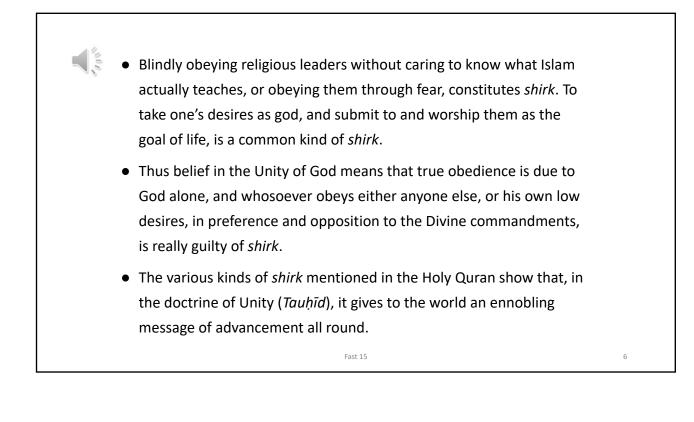






- The third kind of *shirk* is that in which some people take others for their lords, meaning that they blindly obey their religious leaders in what they declare as right or wrong, or what they say is commanded or forbidden by God.
- The fourth kind of *shirk* is referred to in the verse:
  - $_{\odot}$  "Have you seen him who takes his low desires for his god?" 25:43, 45:23 Here blind submission to one's own desires is described as "taking them for god".
- It can be seen that a Muslim too may be guilty of the third and fourth kinds of *shirk*.

Fast 15



 Human beings are freed not only from slavery to animate and inanimate objects, but also from subservience to the great and wondrous forces of nature which they can subdue for their benefit. The Quran also delivers mankind from that greatest of slaveries: slavery to other humans. It does not allow to any mortal the dignity of Godhead, or of being more than a mortal; for the greatest of mortals, the Holy Prophet Muhammad, is commanded to say: "I am only a mortal like you; it is revealed to me that your God is One God." - 18:110

The doctrine of the Unity of God also carries another significance: the idea of the unity of the human race. God is *Rabb al-'ālamīn* — the Lord of all the nations.

Fast 15

