

Is the Prophet a human being?

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Question: In Pakistan, scholars of the Bareilawee Soofee order believe that the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم)¹ did not have a shadow like ordinary human beings, which indicates that he was not of human form. Is there any Saheeh Hadeeth (a Hadeeth that has been transmitted by people known for their uprightness and exactitude; free from eccentricity and blemish) to the effect that the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) did not have a shadow?

Answer: This is a false belief which is incongruous with the explicit texts of the Qur'aan and Sunnah (whatever is reported from the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم)) which affirm the human nature of the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) who shared the same human characteristics as the rest of mankind. He used to have a shadow just like any ordinary human being. Being honoured with Prophethood does not take him out of the fold of mankind who are born through the natural contact between a father and a mother. Allaah (Exalted be He) says: [Say (O Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم)): "I am only a man like you. It has been revealed to me..."] Allaah (Exalted be He) also says: [Their Messengers said to them: "We are no more than human beings like you"]

As for the Hadeeth which states that the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was created from the light of Allaah, it has been classified as Hadeeth Mawdoo` (fabricated Hadeeth).

May Allaah grant us success. May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions.

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¹ (صلى الله عليه وسلم) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him