

Meaning of ma'iyah

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Taken from the works of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

With regards to the ma'iyah of Allaah (Allaah's being "with" someone) Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)¹ states:

The ma'iyah is divided into two types: that which is general and that which is specific.

And the specific is (sub) divided into two types: that which is restricted to a person and that which is restricted to a description.

As for the general, then this includes everyone – from the believer and the disbeliever, the righteous one and the wicked one. And the proof for it is His statement, He the Most High:

And He is with you wherever you are.

[Soorah al Hadeed (the 57th chapter) aayah 4]

As for the specific (type) restricted to a description: then an example is His statement, He the Most High:

Allaah is indeed with those who have taqwaa (by fearing Allaah with regards to His prohibitions and His punishment) and those who are muhsinoon (people who act well with regards to that which He has made obligatory upon them).

Soorah an Nahl (16) aayah 128

As for the specific (type) restricted to a particular person: then an example is His statement, He the Most High, about His Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم)²:

When he said to his companion (Aboo Bakr), "Do not grieve; indeed Allaah is with us."

[Soorah at Tawbah (the 9th chapter) aayah 40]

¹ (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

² (صلى الله عليه وسلم) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

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And He said to Moosaa and Haaron:

I am indeed with the two of you, hearing and seeing.

[Soorah TaaHaa (the 20th chapter) aayah 46]

And this (ma'iyah restricted to a person) is more specific than that which is restricted to a description.

So the ma'iyah is of levels: that which is general and unrestricted, and that which is specific and restricted to a description and that which is specific and restricted to a person.

So the most specific of the types of ma'iyah is that which is restricted to a person, then that which is restricted to a description, then that which is general.

The ma'iyah which is general necessitates (Allaah's) encompassing the creation with knowledge and ability and hearing and seeing and authority, and other than that from the meanings of His Ruboobiyyah.

And the ma'iyah which is specific, with its two types, necessitates (along) with that nasr (aiding) and ta-yeed (giving support).

(Sharh of Waasitiyyah of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ), quoted in Mu'jam at Ta'reefaat p387)