*Al-Malik (The King)*

*Ramadan – Ashton Central Mosque – 25/07/13*

The Real King is God, who is Self-Sufficient in Himself and Attributes and needs nothing; but all things in existence need Him for everything.

Al-Malik (The King) is one of Allah’s ninety-nine divine Names and Attributes. According to Muslims, Whosoever knows each one of these names will be admitted into Paradise.

**هُوَ اللَّهُ الَّذِي لا إِلَهَ إِلا هُوَ الْمَلِكُ الْقُدُّوسُ السَّلامُ الْمُؤْمِنُ الْمُهَيْمِنُ الْعَزِيزُ الْجَبَّارُ الْمُتَكَبِّرُ سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ**

Allah says in the Quran: {He is Allah, besides Whom there is no god, the King, the Holy, the One Free from all defects, the Giver of security, the Watcher over His creatures, the All-Mighty, the Compeller, the Supreme. Glory be to Allah! High is He above all that which they associate as partners with Him.} (Al-Hashr 59: 23)

**مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ**

He also says: {Master (King) of the Day of Judgement} (Al-Fatihah 1: 4)

**قُلِ اللَّهُمَّ مَالِكَ الْمُلْكِ تُؤْتِي الْمُلْكَ مَنْ تَشَاءُ وَتَنْزِعُ الْمُلْكَ مِمَّنْ تَشَاءُ وَتُعِزُّ مَنْ تَشَاءُ وَتُذِلُّ مَنْ تَشَاءُ بِيَدِكَ الْخَيْرُ إِنَّكَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ**

In another Quranic Verse God says: {Say: ‘O Allah, Owner of the Kingdom! You give kingdom to whom You will, and You take kingdom from whom You will; and You endue with honor whom You will, and You humiliate whom You will. In Your Hand is the Good. Verily, You are Able to do all things.} (Al-Imran 3: 26)

**فَسُبْحَانَ الَّذِي بِيَدِهِ مَلَكُوتُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَإِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ**

{So Glorified and Far Exalted is He (above all that they associate with Him), in Whose Hand is the Dominion of all things, and to Whom you shall be returned.} (Ya-Sin 36:83)

**Definition Of Al-Mulk (Sovereignty):**

In Arabic the word “Mulk” means the ability to dispose with things, and hence, God’s name “The King” is derived from His Self, but it can also be derived from His acts as the Disposer with all things.

God is the King and Owner of kings. In other words, everything that can be owned belongs to God. Some scholars hold that a king is someone who rules but does not own, and an owner is someone who owns but does not rule; but God is the Owner and the King.

Sometimes, a person may own something but does not have the right to use it. Sometimes, a person may use and dispose with something although he does not own it. And sometimes, a person may own, use and dispose with something, but in the end it does not remain his own.

Now, if we say someone is a king do we mean that he is really or metaphorically a king? Scholars refuted the idea that anyone can really own anything except God; and any kind of ownership other than that of God is only metaphoric and unreal.

This is because the real king is someone who is self-sufficient in both himself and attributes and needs no one, or nothing else in existence.

Is there a king who is self-sufficient and needs nothing for his existence and survival? air to breathe, water to drink, food to eat, and sleep to rest? Does he not feel afraid or sad? Does he not wish he could have more supporters and helpers?

**The Real King**

Every human being is, therefore, in need of other fellow humans or other things for the achievement of his existence and survival; and, therefore, no human being, or any other creature, can ever be a real king. The Real King is God, the All-Mighty, the Self-Sufficient; and anyone else can be only metaphorically called “a king”.

The Real King is God, who is Self-Sufficient in Himself and Attributes and needs nothing; but all things in existence need Him for everything. In other words, He is the King by Himself, His Existence, and His Attributes. He is in need of nothing, but all things do need Him. Such is the accurate definition of “The King”, and none but God, deserves it.

God is The King, Who, if He so desires, grants ownership and dominion, and, if He so desires, causes to perish.

**قُلِ اللَّهُمَّ مَالِكَ الْمُلْكِ تُؤْتِي الْمُلْكَ مَنْ تَشَاءُ وَتَنْزِعُ الْمُلْكَ مِمَّنْ تَشَاءُ وَتُعِزُّ مَنْ تَشَاءُ وَتُذِلُّ مَنْ تَشَاءُ بِيَدِكَ الْخَيْرُ إِنَّكَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ**

God is the one who owns and grants ownership. To this effect God says: {Say: ‘O Allah, Owner of the Kingdom! You give kingdom to whom You will, and You take kingdom from whom You will; and You endue with honor whom You will, and You humiliate whom You will. In Your Hand is the Good. Verily, You are Able to do all things.} (Al-Imran 3:26)

And real ownership is to control one’s desires and not to let them dominate over him, to be free from oneself and not possessed thereby.