

Fundamentals of Belief

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

[An abridgement of 'The Three Fundamentals' ('Thalaathatul-Usool'), entitled 'Talqeen Usoolil-'Aqeedah lil-'Aammah' (Instruction in the fundamentals of Belief for the common people)]

By Shaikhul-Islam Muhammad ibn `Abdul-Wahhaab-(رَجْمَةُ اللَّهِ)

If it is said to you: Who is your Lord?

Then say: My Lord (Rabb) is Allaah.

So if it is said to you: What is the meaning of 'Lord' (ar-Rabb)?

Then say: The One Who is worshipped, the Sovereign-King, the One in control of the affairs.

So if it is said to you: What are the greatest of the things that He has created that you see?

Then say: The heavens and the earth.

So if it said to you: How do you know Him?

Then say: I know Him by His signs and His creation.

So if it is said to you: What are the greatest of His signs that you see?

Then say: The day and the night.

And the proof of this is the Saying of Allaah – the Most High:-

إِنَّ رَبَّكُمُ اللَّهُ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ فِي سِتَّةِ أَيَّامٍ ثُمَّ اسْتَوَىٰ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ يُعْشِي اللَّيْلَ النَّهَارَ يَطْلُبُهُ حَثِيثًا وَالشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ وَالنُّجُومَ مُسْحَرَاتٍ
بِأَمْرِهِ أَلَا لَهُ الْخَلْقُ وَالْأَمْرُ تَبَارَكَ اللَّهُ رَبُّ الْعَالَمِينَ

[Soorah al-A'raaf (7): 54]

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[Meaning: Your Lord is Allaah Who created the heavens and the earth in six days, then He ascended upon the Throne. He causes the night to cover the day which it follows with haste; and the sun, the moon and the stars are subservient and subject to His Command. Certainly creation and commandment are His alone. Exalted is Allaah, the Lord of all creation].

So if it is said to you: What is the meaning of 'Allaah'?

Then say: He Who possesses Divinity and the sole right to worship over all His creation.

So if it is said to you: Why did Allaah create you?

Then say: To worship Him.

So if it is said: What is worship ('Ibaadah') of Him?

Then say: To single Him out with worship and to obey Him.

So if it is said to you: What is the proof of this?

Then say: The saying of Allaah-the Most High-:

وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ

[Soorah adh-Dhaariyaat (51): 56]

[Meaning: I did not create jinn and mankind except that they should worship Me.]

So if it is said to you: What is the first thing that Allaah has made obligatory upon you?

Then say: Rejecting everything that is worshipped besides Allaah, and having true Faith [‘Eemaan] in Allaah.

And the proof for this is the Saying of Allaah-the Most High-:

لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ وَيُؤْمِنْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدِ اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ لَا انْفِصَامَ لَهَا وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ

[Soorah al-Baqarah (2): 256]

[Meaning: No one is to be compelled to enter the Religion; true guidance has been made clear and distinct from falsehood. So whoever rejects ‘at-Taaghoot’ (all that is worshipped besides Allaah) and truly believes and worships Allaah alone – then he has grasped the firmest handhold that will never break. And Allaah is the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing]

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So if it is said: What is the ‘firmest handhold’ (al-`Urwatul-Wuthqaa)?

Then say: ‘Laa ilaaha illallaah’ (None has the right to be worshipped except Allaah).

And the meaning of ‘Laa ilaaha’ (None has the right to be worshipped) is a denial and ‘illallaah’ (except Allaah) is an affirmation.

So if it is said to you: What is it that you are denying and what are you affirming?

Then say: It is a denial of everything that is worshipped besides Allaah and an affirmation of worship for Allaah alone- His having no sharer in that.

So if it is said to you: What is the proof for this?

Then say: The Saying of Allaah – the Most High:-

وَإِذْ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ لِأَبِيهِ وَقَوْمِهِ إِنَّنِي بَرَاءٌ مِّمَّا تَعْبُدُونَ

[Soorah az-Zukhruf (43): 26]

[Meaning: And remember when Ibraaheem said to his father and his people: I am totally free from everything that you worship.]

So this is a proof for the denial and the proof for the affirmation is:

إِلَّا الَّذِي فَطَرَنِي

[Soorah az-Zukhruf (43): 27]

[Meaning: Except for the One Who created me]

So if it is said to you: What is the difference between ‘Tawheedur-Ruboobiyyah’ (Tawheed of Allaah’s Lordship) and ‘Tawheedul-Uloohiyyaah’ (Tawheed of the worship of Allaah)?

Then say: Tawheed of Allaah’s Lordship relates to the actions of the Lord – such as: creation, providing provision, giving life, giving death, sending down rain, causing plants to grow, and controlling all affairs..., and Tawheed of Worship relates to your actions, O servant (of Allaah), such as: supplication (du’aa), reverential fear (khawf), hope and longing (rajaa.), trust and reliance (tawakkul), turning repentantly (inaabah), fervent desire (raghbah), dread (rahbah), vows (nadhr), seeking deliverance (istighaathah), and all the rest of the types of worship.

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So if it said to you: What is your religion (Deen)?

Then say: My Religion is al-Islam, and its foundation and root is two matters:

The command to worship Allaah alone and to associate nothing with Him, and to call to this, and to associate nothing with Him, and to call to this, and to have love and alliance for Allaah's sake based upon this, and to declare those who reject this to be Unbelievers; and the warning against shirk-associating anything in worship with Allaah; and severity against that, and to have hatred and enmity for the people who commit that, and to declare those who commit it to be Unbelievers.

It is based upon five pillars: the testification that none has the right to be worshipped except Allaah, and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah; and to establish the Prayer; and to pay the Zakaat; and to fast Ramadaan; and to perform Hajj to the House if one is able.

The proof for the testification is the Saying of Allaah – the Most High:-

شَهِدَ اللَّهُ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ وَأُولُوا الْعِلْمِ قَائِمًا بِالْقِسْطِ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ

[Soorah Aal-'Imraan(3): 18]

[Meaning: Allaah bears witness that none has the right to be worshipped but Him; and likewise the Angels and the people of knowledge bear witness: He Who maintains justice. None has the right to be worshipped but Him, the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.]

And the proof that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah is the Saying of Allaah – the Most High:-

مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ أَبَا أَحَدٍ مِّن رِّجَالِكُمْ وَلَكِن رَّسُولَ اللَّهِ وَخَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ

[Soorah al-Ahzaab(33): 40]

[Meaning: Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allaah and the last of the Prophets.]

And the proof for making all worship purely and sincerely for Allaah and for the Prayer and Zakaat is the Saying of Allaah – the Most High:-

وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ حُنَفَاءَ وَيُقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَيُؤْتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَذَلِكَ دِينُ الْقِيَمَةِ

[Soorah al-Bayyinah(98): 5]

[Meaning: And they were not commanded except that they should worship Allaah alone, making their worship and obedience purely for Him, upon the true Religion and free from shirk; and that they should establish the Prayer and pay the Zakaat].

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And the proof for the Fasting is the Saying of Allaah – the Most High-:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

[Soorah al-Baqarah(2): 183]

[Meaning: O you who believe: Fasting is prescribed as an obligation for you as it was prescribed as an obligation for those who came before you].

And the proof for the Hajj is the Saying of Allaah – the Most High-:

وَلِلَّهِ عَلَى النَّاسِ حُجُّ الْبَيْتِ مَنِ اسْتَطَاعَ إِلَيْهِ سَبِيلًا وَمَن كَفَرَ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَنِيٌّ عَنِ الْعَالَمِينَ

[Soorah Aal-`Imraan(3): 97]

[Meaning: And Hajj to Allaah’s sacred House is an obligation upon those able to perform it; and whoever refuses and rejects the obligation of Hajj to Allaah’s House, then Allaah has no need of him or of any of the creation].

And the fundamentals of ‘Eemaan (true Faith) are six: That you truly believe in Allaah, and His Angels, and His Books, and His Messengers, and the Last Day, and that you truly believe in Pre-Decree (al-Qadr)-the good and the bad of it.

And Ihsaan (perfection of worship) is that you worship Allaah as if you were seeing Him, and even though you do not see Him then He certainly sees you.

So if it is said to you: Who is your Prophet?

Then say: Muhammad- the son of `Abdullaah- the son of `Abdul-Muttalib- the son of Haashim; and Haashim was from Qur’aysh; and Qur’aysh are from the Arabs; and the Arabs are from the offspring of Ismaa’eel – the son of Ibraaheem ‘al-Khaleel’- may the most excellent blessings and peace be upon him.

His land was Makkah, and he migrated to al-Madeenah. He lived for sixty-three years: forty before Prophethood, and twenty-three as a Prophet and Messenger.

He was sent as a Prophet (Nabiyy) with {اِقْرَأْ} ¹ and as a Messenger (Rasool) with ‘al-Muddaththir’ ².

¹ Translators note: the beginning of Sooratul-`Alaq (96): Aayahs 1-5.

² Translators note: The seventy-fourth Soorah.

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So if it is said: Did he die or not?

Then say: He died, but his Religion did not die: it will remain until the Day of Resurrection.

The proof is the Saying of Allaah – the Most High:-

إِنَّكَ مَيِّتٌ وَإِيَّاهُمْ مَيِّتُونَ ثُمَّ إِنَّكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ عِنْدَ رَبِّكُمْ تَخْتَصِمُونَ

[Soorah az-Zumar(39): 30-31]

[Meaning: O Muhammad you will soon die, and the deniers from your people will die. Then on the day of Resurrection you will all dispute before your Lord.]

And after the people die will they be resurrected?

Then say: Yes. And the proof is the Saying of Allaah- the Most High:-

مِنْهَا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ وَفِيهَا نُعِيدُكُمْ وَمِنْهَا نُخْرِجُكُمْ تَارَةً أُخْرَى

[Soorah Taa Haa(20): 55]

[Meaning: From the earth We created you, O mankind, and to it We shall return you after death, and from it We shall raise you to life yet again].

Whoever denies the Resurrection is an Unbeliever, and the proof is the Saying of Allaah – the Most High:-

زَعَمَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَنْ لَنْ يُبْعَثُوا قُلْ لِيَبْلُوَ رَبِّي لَتُبْعَثُنَّ ثُمَّ لَتُنَبَّؤُنَّ بِمَا عَمِلْتُمْ وَذَلِكَ عَلَى اللَّهِ يَسِيرٌ

[Soorah at-Taghaabun (64): 7]

[Meaning: The Unbelievers claim that Allaah will not resurrect them after death. Say to them, O Muhammad: By my Lord you will certainly be resurrected from you graves then you will be informed of the deeds which you did in the world. That is easy for Allaah.]

And may Allaah extol and send plentiful blessings of peace upon Muhammad, and his family and true followers, and his Companions.
