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الواجبات المتحتمات
المعرفة على كل مسلم ومسلمة

Religious Fundamentals

that every Muslim
should know about

By:

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Publisher's Note

This brief treatise entitled *Religious Fundamentals* is based on the work of Sheikh-ul-Islam Muhammad bin Sulaiman At-Tamimi. It expounds *Tauhid*, *Shirk* and *Nifâq* from the Islamic point of view.

In the modern times in which atheism and apostasy are dominant, it is needed to resort to Islam so that we may save ourselves from the man-made philosophies which affect our monotheistic creed and cultural values.

Thus all of us should acquire knowledge of Islam and act upon it devoutly for Allah's pleasure. May Allah bless all those who contributed in bringing out the booklet.

Abdul Malik Mujahid
General Manager
Maktaba Dar-us-Salam

Three Basic Principles

The three basic principles of which every Muslim must be aware are:

Knowledge about his/her *Rabb* (Lord), knowledge about his/her religion (Islam) and knowledge about his/her Prophet (Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم).

If it is asked: Who is your *Rabb*? Your answer is: My *Rabb* is Allah Who created and reared me and all the worlds by His grace. My worship is solely for Him. In fact, there is none to be worshipped besides Allah.

If it is asked: What is your religion? Your reply is: My religion is Islam which implies submission to Allah by recognition of His Oneness, obedience to His Orders and avoidance of *Shirk* (polytheism) and its adherents.

If it is asked: Who is your Prophet? Your answer is: My Prophet is Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم, son of Abdullah bin Abdul Muttalib bin Hashim. Hashim was a Quraish tribesman and Quraish was an Arab tribe. The Arabs are the descendants of Isma'il, son of Ibrahim Al Khalil (the friend of) Allah. (may Allah's mercy and blessing be upon them and our Prophet).

Source of Religion

The source of religion depends on two things:

First: Enjoining the people to worship Allah Who is alone without partner, enticing others to do so, befriending them for it and regarding them as disbelievers if they renounce it.

Second: Warning against the *Shirk* in the worship of Allah, treating harshly for it, bearing hostility for it and regarding them as disbelievers who commit it.

Conditions of Testimony

There are seven conditions of the Testimony of Faith in Allah known as “There is no God except Allah”:

1. Knowledge of its meaning with both negative and affirmative aspects.
2. Certitude with perfect knowledge which negates all the doubts and suspicions about it.
3. Sincerity and purity of intention in contradiction to *shirk*.
4. Truthfulness which negates the falsehood and prohibits hypocrisy.
5. Love of and devotion to the Testimony of Faith and its requisites, and rejoicing at it.
6. Submission to its prerequisites which include obligatory acts of worship to be dedicated to Allah alone and seeking His pleasure.
7. Acceptance which in contradiction to rejection or denial of the testimony of faith.

Evidences from the Qur’ân and Sunnah

Evidence of Knowledge:

Allah the Almighty said:

[محمد: ١٩]

﴿فَاعْلَمْ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ﴾

“So know (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم) that *La ilaha illa-Allah*. (There is no true God but Allah).” (47:19)

And Allah said:

[الزخرف: ٨٦]

﴿إِلَّا مَنْ شَهِدَ بِالْحَقِّ وَهُمْ يَعْلَمُونَ﴾

“...Except those who bear witness to the truth (i.e. the Oneness of Allah), and they know (the facts about the Oneness of Allah)”.(43:86)

“They know by their hearts what they utter by their lips.

On the authority of Uthman رضي الله عنه it is reported that Allah’s Messenger صلى الله عليه وسلم said:

«مَنْ مَاتَ وَهُوَ يَعْلَمُ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ دَخَلَ الْجَنَّةَ»

“Whosoever (of my followers) died knowing (fully well) that there is no true God but Allah, he would enter Paradise.” (Bukhari, Muslim)

Evidence of Certitude:

Allah said:

﴿إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَرْتَابُوا وَجَنَّهُدُوا بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنْفُسِهِمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الصَّادِقُونَ﴾ [الحجرات: ١٥]

“Only those are the believers who have believed in Allah and His Messenger, and afterward doubt not but strive with their wealth and their lives in the Cause of Allah. Those! They are the truthful.”(49:15)

The condition of their belief in Allah and His Messenger was that they did not doubt or suspect. As for the doubtful, they are the hypocrites.

On the authority of Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه who said that Allah’s Messenger صلى الله عليه وسلم said:

«أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ لَا يَلْقَى اللَّهُ بِهِمَا عَبْدٌ غَيْرَ شَاكٍ فِيهِمَا إِلَّا دَخَلَ الْجَنَّةَ»

inhabitants of the earth. And a slave whom Allah sees has the right to be granted his request.”

Evidence of Truthfulness:

Allah says:

﴿ أَحْسِبَ النَّاسُ أَنْ يَتْرَكُوا أَنْ يَقُولُوا ءَامَنَّا وَهُمْ لَا يُفْتَنُونَ ۖ وَلَقَدْ فَتَنَّا الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ فَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا وَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ الْكٰذِبِينَ ﴾ [العنكبوت: ٢-٣]

“Do people think that they will be left alone because they say ‘We believe,’ and will not be tested? And We indeed tested those who were before them. And Allah will certainly make known those who are true and will certainly make known those who are liars.” (29:2-3)

And He says:

﴿ وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَنْ يَقُولُ ءَامَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَيَأْتُونَ الْآخِرَ وَمَا هُمْ بِمُؤْمِنِينَ ۖ يُخٰدِعُونَ اللَّهَ وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَمَا يُخٰدِعُونَ إِلَّا أَنْفُسَهُمْ وَمَا يَشْعُرُونَ ۖ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ مَرَضٌ فَزَادَهُمُ اللَّهُ مَرَضًا وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ ۖ بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْذِبُونَ ﴾ [البقرة: ٨-١٠]

“And of mankind there are some (hypocrites) who say ‘We believe in Allah and the Last Day’ while in fact they believe not. They (think to) deceive Allah and those who believe, while they only deceive themselves, and they perceive not! In their hearts is a disease (of doubt and hypocrisy), and Allah has increased their disease. A painful torment is theirs because they used to tell lies.” (2:8-10)

Mu’adh bin Jabal رضي الله عنه narrated from the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم:

«مَا مِنْ أَحَدٍ يَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَنْ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ صِدْقًا مِنْ قَلْبِهِ إِلَّا حَرَّمَهُ اللَّهُ عَلَى النَّارِ»

There is none who testifies ‘*La ilaha illa Allah wa anna Muhammadan abduhu wa Rasuluhu* (There is no true God except Allah and Muhammad is His slave and His Messenger)’ truthfully from his heart, Allah will forbid the Hell-fire for him.” (Bukhari, Muslim)

﴿ وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَنْ يَتَّخِذُ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ أَنْدَادًا يُحِبُّونَهُمْ كَحُبِّ اللَّهِ وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَشَدُّ حُبًّا لِلَّهِ ﴾ [البقرة: ١٦٥]

Evidence of Love:

Allah the Almighty said:

“And of mankind are some who take some (associates for worship) besides Allah as rivals; they love them as they love Allah. But those who believe love Allah more (than anything else).” (2:165)

And He said:

﴿ يٰۤاَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مَنْ يَرْتَدَّ مِنْكُمْ عَنْ دِينِهِ فَسَوْفَ يَأْتِي اللَّهَ بِقَوْمٍ يُحِبُّونَهُمْ وَيُحِبُّونَهُ ۗ أُولَٰئِكَ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ أَعَزَّةٌ عَلَى الْكٰفِرِينَ يُجَاهِدُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَلَا يَخَافُونَ لَوْمَةَ لَائِمٍ ۗ ﴾ [المائدة: ٥٤]

“O you who believe! whoever from among you apostates from his religion (Islam), Allah will bring a people whom He will love and who will love Him, humble towards the believers, stern towards the disbelievers, fighting in the Way of Allah, and never afraid of the blame of the blamers.” (5:54)

Anas رضي الله عليه وسلم narrated that Allah’s Messenger صلى الله عليه وسلم said:

«ثَلَاثٌ مَنْ كُنَّ فِيهِ وَجَدَ حُلَاوَةَ الْإِيمَانِ: أَنْ يَكُونَ اللَّهُ وَرَسُولَهُ أَحَبَّ إِلَيْهِ مِمَّا سِوَاهُمَا وَأَنْ يُحِبَّ الْمَرْءَ لَا يُحِبُّهُ إِلَّا لِلَّهِ وَأَنْ يَكْرَهُ أَنْ يَعُودَ فِي الْكُفْرِ بَعْدَ إِذْ أَنْقَذَهُ اللَّهُ مِنْهُ كَمَا يَكْرَهُ أَنْ يَقْتَدِفَ فِي النَّارِ»