

Al-Islam

A guide for the beginner



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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

All Praises belong to Allaah, Lord of everything that exists, the One who honors us through our adherence to Islam and disgraces us when we seek honor from something else. I bear witness that none has the right to be worshiped except Allaah alone without any partners and I bear witness that Muhammad (May Allah exalt his mention and grant him safety) is His servant and messenger. May Allah exalt his mention and the mention of his, family, companions and whoever follows and supports him. To proceed:

Oh Muslims, have fear and consciousness of Allah, the Most High, and thank Him for the favor He has bestowed upon you with the blessing of Islam, which is the greatest blessing that Allaah has bestowed upon the people of the earth. As Allah says:

"This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favor upon you and have approved for you Islam as your religion. But whoever is forced by severe hunger with no inclination to sin - then indeed, Allah is Forgiving and Merciful."(5:3) And Allaah says:

"O you who have believed, fear Allah as He should be feared and do not die except as Muslims [in submission to Him]."(3:102) And Allaah says:

"And Abraham instructed his sons [to do the same] and [so did] Jacob, [saying], "O my sons, indeed Allah has chosen for you this religion, so do not die except while you are Muslims."(2:132)

Certainly, this religion is a tremendous blessing.

Al-Islam means: submission to Allaah, singling Him out in everything particular to Him, while yielding to Him with obedience and disassociating oneself from shirk and its people. Islam is the religion of all the prophets (May Allah exalt their mention and grant them safety). Therefore, anyone who followed a Prophet from those (sent by Allaah) and acted in accordance with their laws was Muslim. However, when Allaah sent His Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) to all mankind, the religion of Islam became the religion restricted to the following of the Messenger and Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him). As Allaah says:

Say, [O Muhammad], "O mankind, indeed I am the Messenger of Allah to you all." (7:158) And Allaah says:

"And We have not sent you except comprehensively to mankind as a bringer of good tidings and a warner. But most of the people do not know."(34:28)

Therefore, whoever does not obey this Messenger and comply with his (way) is not a Muslim¹, even if he claims being Jewish or Christian or that he is following Moses or Jesus. The Prophet (May Allah exalt his mention and grant him safety) said:

"There will not be anyone from this nation, Jew or Christian, who hears about me and does not believe in that which I came with except that he will enter the fire."

¹

Islam (after the time of the previous prophets) became restricted to following this Prophet Muhammad. The Prophet (also) said:

“By Allaah! If my brother Moses was living, he would have no option but to follow me.”

For this reason, when Jesus, the Messiah, son of Mary descends during the last days, he will follow Prophet Muhammad and he will rule by the laws of Islam and the legislation of Prophet Muhammad (May Allah exalt his mention and grant him safety). This is because he (Prophet Muhammad) is the seal and finality of the prophets and Allaah sent him to all mankind: Arabs, non-Arabs, literate and illiterate. It is an obligation that everyone follows this Messenger. Allaah says:

“So they who have believed in him, honored him, supported him and followed the light which was sent down with him - it is those who will be the successful.” (7:157)

Islaam is established upon two foundations: the Book and the Sunnah.

The Book is the Quran and the Sunnah is the way of the Messenger. There is no source or foundation upon which the religion is built except these two great foundations. It is an obligation upon (every) Muslim to adhere to that which is binding from the Quran and Sunnah. He does not invent his own Islam or blindly follow those who claims Islam, while they are in opposition to it. It is binding that one yields to it (Allaah and the religion) with obedience and disassociates oneself from polytheism.

There are people who say they are Muslims but they invoke others besides Allaah, supplicating to the righteous and the dead. They seek help from the dead and this (person) is not a Muslim because he has nullified the first pillar of Islaam. It is the shahaadah: to bear witness that none has the right to be worshiped except Allaah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah. The one who claims Islam bearing witness that none has the right to be worshiped except Allaah and that Muhammad is the messenger of Allaah, but does not act in accordance to this religion is not a Muslim. The ones who only do innovated practices and blindly follow their fathers and mothers are not Muslims, until they yield to that which comes from the Quran and Sunnah. This is what is required from the two testimonies. Therefore the statement ‘laa ilaaha illa Allah’ means to negate and reject polytheism and all of its types. The meaning of bearing witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah means to reject innovations and newly invented matters and all of its types.

This is Islam which is built on five pillars: The two testimonies, establishing the prayer, paying the zakat, fasting during Ramadhaan and making pilgrimage to the House of Allaah. These are the pillars that are the foundations that the religion (of Islam) is established upon. The Prophet said:

“The religion is built upon five.”

Then he mentioned the (previous) five pillars that the religion is built upon. Anything else from the qualities of good, righteous actions and obedience, are things that complete Islam. Whoever is deficient in anything from the pillars of Islam; then his religion is not correct. (On the other hand)

whoever is deficient regarding actions of obedience and worship which are other than from the pillars, then this person's Islam is only deficient and his Islam is not nullified.

The Prophet (May Allah exalt his mention and grant him safety) said:

“The Muslim is the one who other Muslims are safe from his tongue and hands.”

So the Muslim is the one who does not backbite and is not involved in tale carrying and causing conflicts between people. He does not lie or oppress anyone with his speech. He does not attribute something to someone that he did not say. The one who does those things, the Muslims are not safe from his tongue. Therefore, the Muslim abandons backbiting, slandering, cursing and bearing witness to falsehood. The Muslim is the one whose tongue is pure.

In addition, the Muslims are safe from his hands. He does not take the wealth of people by seizing it forcefully. He does not take the wealth (also) by stealing it secretly, with trickery or lying and by actions which are forbidden. Certainly, the wealth of people is sacred, even that of the non-Muslims who are not combatants in war. The Prophet said:

“Every Muslim's blood, wealth and honor is sacred.”

This is the complete Muslim, but as for the one who has sins and transgressions against people and he has not committed polytheism or disbelief, then his Islam is only defective in accordance with that which he lacks.

Islam is not merely attributing oneself to Islam. Therefore the one who merely says 'I am Muslim' but does not pray, then this person is not Muslim. He has abandoned a main pillar of Islam, which is its second pillar after the two testimonies. Also the one who does not pay the zakaat (purify his wealth); this one is (also) not a Muslim. Abu Bakr as-Siddeeq, who was the successor after the Prophet (May Allah exalt his mention and grant him safety), fought those who did not pay the zakaat. He did so until they gave it unwillingly and he took it from them. This (the zakaat) is a pillar of Islam and he was not lenient regarding it.

The remaining pillars of Islam must also be upheld. An individual's Islam will not be established without them. Therefore, the Muslim guards his Islam and by this he is truly a Muslim as Allaah ordered him (to be). Islam does not suffice just by identity and affiliation without that being a reality.

So the Muslim must guard his religion and adhere to it until death. Allaah says:

"And do not die except that you are Muslim."

Especially -O slaves of Allah- during these days in which the trials with which Islam is confronted are great. Therefore you find the one who Allaah has not made firm, drifts along with (these trials). As the Prophet said:

"A man reaches the morning as a believer and by the evening is a disbeliever. And a man reaches the evening a believer and reaches the morning as a disbeliever. He sells his religion for a piece of the worldly life."

This one's religion is not firmly established against the presence of lust and desires. This one's religion is not a firmly

established against the threats and intimidations of the enemies (of Islam). The enemies are not pleased that you are Muslim, rather their goal is to disconnect and remove you from Islam to disbelief. Allaah says:

“They wish you would disbelieve as they disbelieved so you would be alike. So do not take from among them allies...”
(4:89)

It is binding upon the Muslim to be aware of the kuffaar and their plots. Allaah says:

“They wish you would disbelieve as they disbelieved...”

And He says:

“And they will not cease to fight you until they turn you back from your religion if they are able.” (2:217)

The reality of today in relation to (the plots of the disbelievers), which is greatly witnessed, is that the disbelieving states dispatch their troops and armies to fight Islam and the Muslims in every place. Even now their attacks are in their (the Muslims’) homes. So how is (the condition) of Syria, Iraq and the Muslim states? They have overthrown and toppled them. They have caused havoc and corruption in the earth. This is because they do not want any Muslim to remain on earth, and do whatever they are able to in this regard.

The Prophet informed and warned (us) about this in the statement:

“Soon the nations will gather against you, just as people are called to a feast.” The people said: “Will it be on account of us being small in number?” He said: “No! That day you will be

many, but you will be like the scum on top of flood water." The awe and fear will be removed from the hearts of your enemies and your hearts will be placed with al-wahan. They said: "O Messenger of Allaah what is al-wahan?" He said: "The love of the world and dislike for death."

Therefore it is binding on the Muslim that he adheres to his religion at whatever cost, and so his ending² will be upon Islam and he will meet Allaah as a practicing Muslim.

The Prophet said:

"Do not associate partners with Allaah even if you are killed or burned by fire."

So the Muslim adheres and holds on to his religion and Allaah at whatever cost. He defends the religion and his Muslim brothers with what he is capable of. The Muslims are like one body: if one limb is affected then the entire body is also affected, with concern and thoughtfulness (for the other parts).

Therefore the Muslims must cooperate (with one another) and adhere to their religion, and resist and be steadfast against the enemies of Allah. They are diligent in diverting the Muslims from their religion in whatever way possible. A burning hatred and envy is within their hearts against the Muslims. Allah says:

"They wish you would disbelieve as they disbelieved so you would be alike..." And Allaah says:

"And they will not cease to fight you until they turn you back from your religion if they are able."

² Death

The statement (of Allaah), “they will not cease...” means they will be persistent upon that until the establishment of the hour³. Had it not been for Allaah ruining their plots and debasing their trickery if the Muslims are truthful are truthful to their religion, adhering to it and holding to Allah, at whatever cost. For that if one removes his hand (from holding on) to his religion, he will perish, fail, lose and meet Allaah without a religion. We ask Allaah for well-being.

The Muslim must adhere to his religion, fear the trials and not feel secure from the enemies (of Islam). The Muslim should not seek the advice and counsel of the enemies. Allaah says:

“O you who have believed, if you obey those who disbelieve, they will turn you back on your heels, and you will [then] become losers.”(3:149)

May Allaah bless me and you regarding the Quran and benefit us by what is in it of clarification and wise reminders. I ask Allah’s forgiveness for myself, you and all of the Muslim from every sin; seek forgiveness as Allaah is all-Forgiving, Most Merciful.

Second khutbah

Praise be to Allah for his favor and goodness, I thank him for his guidance and conferred blessings, I bear witness that no deity is worthy of worship except Allah alone without any partners, honoring his matter, and I bear witness that Muhammad (May Allah exalt his mention and grant him safety) is His servant and messenger. May Allah exalt his

³ Day of Judgment

mention and the mention of his, family and companions and grant them lots of safety.

O people, certainly the Muslim will not be firmly established in adhering to his religion until he learns beneficial knowledge. The Muslim must know what Islam is. He must learn its rulings and what is obligatory upon every male and female Muslim. He must learn that which will establish his religion from the beliefs, prayer, zakaat, fasting and Hajj.⁴ This is what is obligatory upon every male and female. The Muslim cannot be ignorant of Islam, not knowing what nullifies it or what makes it deficient.

If the Muslim is ignorant he will fall into polytheism, innovations, and actions of disobedience while he does not know. This will occur because he did not learn the affairs of his religion. It is a must that you learn even if it is in a brief way. One should learn that which will establish his religion from the five pillars of Islaam. This should be learned until one has the ability to practice his religion in the prescribed manner. As for remaining upon ignorance, then he will fall into things that are in opposition to the religion while he does not know.

He learns beneficial knowledge at least in accordance to the necessity (what is required) and this is binding on every individual. As for learning more than that which is required, such as the rulings of transactions, inheritance, marriage, judgments, and crimes and other than that, there is a must that this is learned, but this is not an obligation upon every individual. It is only an obligation upon the Muslim nation (as a whole) that it has one who can be devoted to learn these

⁴ Pilgrimage

affairs in order that needs of the Muslims are met in regards to their religious and worldly matters. This is what is called a collective obligation. If this is established sufficiently, then the rest of the Muslims are excused without sin. If all the Muslims abandon this (obligation), then all of the Muslims are sinful. As for the first type of knowledge, which is an individual obligation, there is no excuse for anyone to be ignorant of it.

Therefore, have consciousness, servants of Allaah. Firstly, gain understanding of your religion, and then be diligent in guarding and preserving it. Ask Allaah for firmness in being upon your religion. Allaah says:

“Allaah keeps firm those who believe, with the firm word, in worldly life and in the Hereafter. And Allah sends astray the wrongdoers. And Allah does what He wills.”(14:27)

Know that the best speech is the Book of Allaah and the best guidance is the guidance of the Prophet. The most evil of affairs are those newly invented matters (in our religion). It's an obligation to cling to the correct body of Muslims, for certainly the Hand of Allaah is over the correct body of Muslims, and he who deviates will deviate to hell-fire

The shaykh concluded his sermon with supplications and all praises belong to Allaah.

We ask Allaah that He makes this a benefit for us and for you