

THE BASICS OF
TAWHEED

1- كتاب

أُسُسُ التَّوْحِيدِ

الجزء الأول

طبعة خاصة

Dr. Saleh As-Saleh

د / صالح الصالح

نشر وتوزيع دار البخاري

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ تَعَالَى نَحْمَدُهُ ، وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَسَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا مِنْ يَهْدِيهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ ، وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ . وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلَّمَ .

All Praise is due to Allaah, we praise Him and seek His help and forgiveness. And we seek refuge in Allaah, Most High, from the evils of our own selves and from our bad deeds. Whomsoever has been guided by Allaah, none can misguide him. And whomsoever Allaah misguides, none can guide him. I bear witness that there is no true god worthy of being worshipped except Allaah, alone, without partner or associate. I further bear witness that Muhammad is His (true worshipper) and Messenger. May Allaah the Exalted bestow His peace and blessings on the Final Prophet Muhammad, upon his good and pure family, and upon all of his noble companions.

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ ﴾

(آل عمران، ١٠٢)

[O you who believe! Fear Allaah (by doing all that He ordered and abstaining from all that He forbade) as He should be feared, and die not except in a state of Islam (as Muslims with complete submission to Allaah).] (Qur'an 3 : 102)

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ ، وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا

وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً ، وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ

كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا ﴾ (النساء، ١)

[O mankind! Be dutiful to your Lord, Who created you from a single soul and from it created its mate, and from them both scattered many men and women, and fear Allaah through Whom you demand your mutual (rights) and not to cut the relations of the wombs (kinship). Surely Allaah is ever a watcher over you.](Qur'an 4: 1)

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا ، يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ ، وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا ﴾
(الأحزاب، ٧٠-٧١)

[O you who believe! Keep your duty to Allaah, and speak always the truth, He will direct you to do good deeds and will forgive you your sins. And whosoever obeys Allaah and His Messenger, he verily has got a great success.] (Qur'an 33: 70-71)

أما بعد/

فإنَّ أصدقَ الحديثِ كتابُ اللهِ ، وخَيْرَ الهدى هدىُّ محمدٍ صلى اللهُ عليه وسلَّم،
وشَرُّ الأمورِ محدثاتها، وكُلُّ مُحدثَةٍ بدعةٌ، وكُلُّ بدعةٍ ضلالةٌ، وكُلُّ ضلالةٍ في النارِ،

It proceeds:

That the most truthful speech is that of Allaah's Book (The Qur'an) and that the best of guidance is that of Muhammad (SAAW)¹. And the worst of evils are innovations (foreign to the true teachings of Islam), and every innovation (in religion) is a *Bid'ah* and every *Bid'ah* is a *Dalalah* (misguidance, deviation), and that *Dalalah* is in Hell.

This is an attempt to provide an understanding of the concepts and meaning of the declaration of *Ash-Shahadatan*. All brothers and

¹SAAW: *Salla Allahu Aleihi Wa Sal'lam*, May Allaah Praise him and grant him Peace.

sisters in Islam need to increase their knowledge about Allaah so that they know Him better and thus worship Him in the way that is accepted by Him (SW)². I hope that this material helps every Muslim to understand his role as a worshipper of Allaah. I ask Allaah to accept this effort and to forgive me if I have written anything wrong.

Sincerely, your brother In Islam

Dr. Saleh As-Saleh

Buraidah, 28/6/1414

Dec. 11, 1993

Revised 17/12/1414

May 27, 1994

²SW: *Subhanahu Wata'ala*, Most Glorified and Exalted He is.

The Declaration of Tawheed

﴿ لا إله إلا الله محمدٌ رسولُ الله ﴾

**"THERE IS NO GOD BUT ALLAAH
AND MUHAMMAD
IS THE MESSENGER OF ALLAAH"
"WHAT DOES IT MEAN?"**

This is the first principle in the belief in *Tawheed* (Oneness of Allaah). Allaah is One in His Lordship, One in His Godship, and One in His Actions and Names and Attributes. Nothing is like Allaah. When someone accepts Allaah as the Only true God Who deserves to be worshipped he must negate all worship to anyone (or anything) other than the worship of Allaah. This is the meaning of the declaration that "*there is no god but Allaah*". It is composed of negation and conformation phrases. The phrase "*there is no god...*" negate all false deities, while the phrase "*but Allaah*" confirms that Allaah is the only True God Who deserves to be worshipped.

Allaah is All-Just and All-Wise. He created us and wants us to know Him and worship Him alone. He does not leave us without guidance. This is part of His Mercy. He, Most Glorified and Exalted, sent Messengers and Prophets to convey a single message: *all nations must submit to the will of their Creator and worship Him alone*. This is the essence of Islam. It is the same message delivered by Adam, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and finally to mankind by Muhammad (peace be upon them all).

These Messengers and Prophets were *created Human Beings*. They were not Divine. In the final revelation to mankind, man is called

to testify that: "There is no True God but Allaah and Muhammad is the true Messenger of Allaah". Once you become a Muslim, you must know that this is the key to *Aj-Jannah* (Paradise). This key has its own "teeth", which represents the elements to the declaration of Tawheed. There are:

Seven Essential Elements to The Declaration of Tawheed

1) Knowledge Against Ignorance

Knowledge about Whom we are worshipping and about the nature, concepts, and methodology of worship are critical for the practice as well as the understanding of Islam. The highest form of knowledge is the one that leads to complete dissociation from false deities and to the devotion of intentions to Allaah alone:

﴿ فَأَعْلَمَ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ لِدُنْبِكَ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مُتَقَلِّبِكُمْ وَمُتَوَكِّمَكُمْ ﴾ (سُورَةُ مُحَمَّدٍ، ١٩)

"And know that none has the right to be worshipped but Allaah and ask forgiveness for your sins, and also for (the sin of) believing men and believing women. And Allaah knows well your moving about, and your place of rest (in your homes)." (Qur'an 47: 19)

The Prophet (SAAW) said:

"من مات وهو يعلم أن لا إله إلا الله دخل الجنة" صحيح - رواه مسلم

"He who died knowing (fully well) that there is no True God worthy of being worshipped except Allaah entered *Aj-Jannah* (Paradise)."³

³Collected by Imam Muslim.

2) Certainty Against Suspicion

The declaration has to be made without any suspicion regarding its meaning:

﴿ إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَرْتَابُوا وَجَاهَدُوا بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنْفُسِهِمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الصَّادِقُونَ ﴾ (سُورَةُ الْحُجْرَاتِ، ١٥)

"Only those are the believers who have believed in Allaah and His Messenger *and* never since doubted." (Qur'an 49:15)

The Prophet (SAAW) said:

"أشهد أن لا إله إلا الله وأني رسول الله، لا يلتقي الله بهما عبدٌ غيرُ شاكٍ فيُحَبَّبُ
عن الجنة" صحيح - رواه مسلم

*"I bear witness that there is no true God worthy of being worshipped except Allaah, and I am His Messenger. The slave of Allaah who would meet Him (SW) without harboring any doubt about this (i.e., Ash-Shahadatan) would enter Aj-Jannah."*⁴

3) Purity of Worship Against Association (Shirk⁵)

The intention of accepting Islam and performing all acts of worship must be purely devoted to Allaah:

﴿ قُلْ إِنِّي أُمِرْتُ أَنْ أَعْبُدَ اللَّهَ مُخْلِصًا لَهُ الدِّينَ ﴾ (سُورَةُ الزُّمَرِ، ١١)

⁴Collected by Imam Muslim.

⁵Shirk: Is to associate something and/or someone in the worship of Allah.

"Say, (O Muhammad): "Verily, I am commanded to worship Allaah (Alone) by obeying Him and doing religious deeds sincerely for Allaah's sake and not to show off, and not to set up rivals with Allaah in worship." (Qur'an 39: 11)

4) Truthfulness against Hypocrisy

Truthfulness paves the way for a meaningful understanding of this declaration. It strengthens the drive of man towards achieving knowledge about his Creator, Allaah. The hypocrites utter the declaration of Tawheed, but they conceal rejection in their hearts:

﴿ يَقُولُونَ بِالسِّتِّهِمْ مَا لَيْسَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ ﴾ (سورة الفتح، ١١)

"They say with their tongues what is not in their hearts." (Qur'an 48: 11)

5) Acceptance Against False Pride and Arrogance

The adherence to the meaning of this declaration takes away any false pride, arrogance and disdainfulness. The truth is the Qur'an and the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (SAAW). Adherence to this truth liberates the Muslim from blind imitation and secures for him the right approach to understand Islam:

﴿ وَكَذَلِكَ مَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ فِي قَرْيَةٍ مِنْ نَذِيرٍ إِلَّا قَالَ مُتْرَفُوهَا إِنَّا وَجَدْنَا
ءَابَاءَنَا عَلَىٰ أُمَّةٍ وَإِنَّا عَلَىٰ آثَارِهِمْ مُقْتَدُونَ * قُلْ أُولَٰئِكَ جِئْتُمْ بِأَهْدَىٰ مِمَّا
وَجَدْتُمْ عَلَيْهِ ءَابَاءَكُمْ قَالُوا إِنَّا بِمَا أُرْسِلْتُمْ بِهِ كَافِرُونَ * فَانتَقَمْنَا مِنْهُمْ فَانظُرْ
كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُكَذِّبِينَ ﴾ (سورة الزحرف، ٢٣-٢٥)

"And similarly We sent not a warner before you (O Muhammad (SAAW)) to any town (people) but the luxurious ones among them said: "We found our fathers following a religion and we will indeed follow their footsteps. (The warner) said: (i.e., say O Muhammad (SAAW) to them): "Even if I brought you better guidance than that which you find your fathers following?" They said: "Verily we disbelieve in that with which you have been sent. So We took revenge on them, then see what was the end of those who denied (Tawheed)!" (Qur'an 43: 23-25)

The understanding of Islam can only be achieved by the Mercy of Allaah then by following those whom Allaah is pleased with, the *Sahabah* (companions of the Prophet-SAAW). The *Sahabah*, and those who followed their path are known as *As-Salafus-Salih* (Righteous Predecessors). They are our guide in understanding and applying the pure teachings of the Prophet (SAAW).

6) Submission That negates Rejection

Submission is fulfilled by obedience to Allaah and His Messenger Muhammad (SAAW) and by safeguarding against what Allaah forbids:

﴿ وَمَنْ يُسْلِمْ وَجْهَهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَهُوَ مُحْسِنٌ فَقَدِ اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ وَإِلَى اللَّهِ عَاقِبَةُ الْأُمُورِ ﴾ (سُورَةُ لُقْمَانَ، ٢٢)

"Whoever submits his whole self to Allaah, while he is doing good (i.e., obeys Allaah in all respects) has grasped the most trustworthy hand-hold." (Qur'an 31: 22)

7) Loving The Declaration

He who loves Allaah will love His religion, and he who does not, will not. The one who loves Allaah loves this declaration. The love of Allaah and His Messenger Muhammad (SAAW) must be translated into following the orders of Allaah and His Messenger. This negates the following of any innovator who had introduced concepts and/or ways that are not according to Islamic teachings: *like the mystics of Sufism and their so-called "Tareeqhas (ways)" which have nothing to do with Islam. Their thoughts originated from Hindu concepts. They elevate their Sufi Sheikhs and leaders (Aqtab) to Divine levels:*

﴿ وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَن يَتَّخِذُ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ أَنِدَادًا يُحِبُّونَهُمْ كَحُبِّ اللَّهِ وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَشَدُّ حُبًّا لِلَّهِ وَلَوْ يَرَى الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا إِذْ يُرَوْنَ الْعَذَابَ أَنَّ الْقُوَّةَ لِلَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعَذَابِ ﴾ (سورة البقرة، ١٦٥)

"And of mankind are some who take (for worship) others besides Allaah as rivals (to Allaah). They love them as they love Allaah. But those who believe love Allaah more (than anything else)."(Qur'an 2: 165)

MUHAMMAD IS THE MESSENGER OF ALLAH

This is the second part of the declaration of *Ash-Shahadatain*. It is the belief that Muhammad (SAAW) is the last Messenger of Allaah. The Message revealed to him is the Qur'an and that it is a Universal Message. The belief that Prophet Muhammad is the last Messenger of Allaah means:

1) Whatever Allaah told us about Muhammad (SAAW) is true:

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ شَاهِدًا وَمُبَشِّرًا وَنَذِيرًا * وَدَاعِيَا إِلَى اللَّهِ بِإِذْنِهِ
وَسِرَاجًا مُنِيرًا ﴾ (سورة الأحزاب، ٤٥ - ٤٦)

"O Prophet (Muhammad-SAAW)! Verily We have sent you as a witness, and a bringer of glad tidings and a warner. And as one who invites to Allaah (i.e., to worship Him (Alone)) by His leave and as a Lamp spreading Light (through your instructions)." (Qur'an 33: 45-46)

﴿ قُلْ إِنَّمَا أَنَا بَشَرٌ مِّثْلُكُمْ يُوحَىٰ إِلَيَّ أَنَّمَا إِلَهُكُمُ إِلَهٌ وَاحِدٌ فَمَن كَانَ يَرْجُوا
لِقَاءَ رَبِّهِ فَلْيَعْمَلْ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا وَلَا يُشْرِكْ بِعِبَادَةِ رَبِّهِ أَحَدًا ﴾ (الكهف، ١١٠)

"Say: "I am a man like you. It has been inspired to me that your *Ilah* (God) is One *Ilah* (God-i.e., Allaah). So whoever hopes to meet his Lord, let him work righteousness and, in the worship of his Lord, admit no one as a partner." (Qur'an 18:110)

﴿ أَكَانَ لِلنَّاسِ عَجَبًا أَنْ أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَى رَجُلٍ مِّنْهُمْ أَنْ أَنْذِرِ النَّاسَ وَبَشِّرِ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَنَّ لَهُمْ قَدَمَ صِدْقٍ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ قَالَ الْكَافِرُونَ إِنَّ هَذَا لَسَاحِرٌ مُّبِينٌ ﴾
(سورة يونس، ٢)

"Is it wonder for mankind that We have sent Our inspiration to a man from among themselves (i.e., Prophet Muhammad) (saying) Warn mankind (of the coming torment in Hell), and give good news to those who believe (in the Oneness of Allaah and in His Prophet Muhammad) that they shall have with their Lord the rewards of their good deeds." (Qur'an 10: 2)

﴿ قُلْ لَا أَمْلِكُ لِنَفْسِي نَفْعًا وَلَا ضَرًّا إِلَّا مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ وَلَوْ كُنْتُ أَعْلَمُ الْغَيْبِ لَاسْتَكْتَرْتُ مِنَ الْخَيْرِ وَمَا مَسَّنِيَ السُّوءُ إِنْ أَنَا إِلَّا نَذِيرٌ وَبَشِيرٌ لِّقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ ﴾
(سورة الأعراف، ١٨٨)

"Say (O Muhammad-SAAW): I possess no power of benefit or hurt to myself except as Allaah will. If I had knowledge of the unseen, I should have secured for myself an abundance of wealth, and no evil should have touched me, I am but a warner, and a bringer of glad tidings unto people who believe." (Qur'an 7: 188)

2) That we must worship Allaah as taught by Muhammad (SAAW):

The obedience to Muhammad (SAAW) is an Order from Allaah:

﴿ وَمَا آتَاكُمُ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ فَانْتَهُوا وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ ﴾ (سورة الحشر، ٧)

"And whatsoever the Messenger (Muhammad-SAAW) gives you, take it, and whatsoever he forbids you abstain (from it) and fear Allaah. Verily Allaah is severe in punishment." (Qur'an 59: 7)

The meaning of the above *Ayah* (Verse) is very well illustrated in the following narration: ⁶

حدَّثنا محمد بن يوسف: حدَّثنا سفيان ، عن منصور ، عن إبراهيم ، عن علقمة، عن عبد الله قال: لعن الله الواشحات والموتشيمات ، المتنمصات والمتفلجات للحسن ، المغيرات خلق الله. فبلغ ذلك امرأة من بني أسد يقال لها أم يعقوب فجاءت فقالت: إنه بلغني أنك لعنت كَيْتَ وكَيْتَ ، فقال ومالي لا ألعن من لعن رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم ومن هو في كتاب الله؟ فقالت: لقد قرأتُ ما بين اللوحين فما وجدتُ فيه ما تقول. قال: لعن كُنتِ قرأتيه لقد وجدته، أما قرأتِ ﴿﴾ وما آتاكم الرسول فخذوه وما نهاكم عنه فانتهوا ﴿﴾- قالت : بلى ، قال فإنه قد نهى عنه، قالت : فيني أرى أهلك يفعلونه، قال : فاذهبي فانظري. فذهبت فنظرت فلم ترَ من حاجتها شيئا. فقال : لو كانت كذلك ما جامعتها"

Narrated 'Alqama: Abdullaah (bin Mas'ud) said, "Allaah curses those ladies who practice tattooing and those who get themselves tattooed, and those ladies who remove the hair from their faces and those who make artificial spaces between their teeth to look more beautiful whereby they change Allaah's creation". His saying reached a lady from Bani Asd called Um Ya'qub who came (to Abdullaah) and said: "I have come to know that you have cursed such-and-such (ladies)?" He replied: "Why should not I curse these whom Allaah's Messenger cursed and who are cursed in Allaah's Book!" Um Ya'qub said, "I

⁶An authentic hadeeth collected by the great scholar of hadeeth, Imam Al-Bukhari.

have read the whole Qur'an and I have not found in it what you say". He said, "Verily if you have read it (i.e. the Qur'an), you have found it. Didn't you read." "And the Messenger gives you, take it and whatsoever he forbids you abstain (from it) and fear Allaah." She replied, "Yes, I did". He said, "Verily, Allaah's Messenger forbade these things". She said, "But I see your wife doing these things?" He said, "Go and watch her". She went and watched her but could not see anything in support of her statement. On that he said, "If my wife were as you thought, I would not keep her in my company (i.e., I would divorce her)."

﴿مَنْ يُطِعِ الرَّسُولَ فَقَدْ أَطَاعَ اللَّهَ وَمَنْ تَوَلَّىٰ فَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ عَلَيْهِمْ حَفِظًا﴾
(سُورَةُ النَّسَاءِ، ٨٠)

"He who obeys the Messenger (Muhammad-SAAW), has indeed obeyed Allaah." (Qur'an 4: 80)

The matters discussing worship of Allaah, discipline, orders, advice, and recommendations as detailed by Muhammad (SAAW) are known as *Sunnah*. The *Sunnah* is an *Inspiration* from Allaah and is not the Prophet's idea, thought or desire:

﴿وَمَا يَنْطِقُ عَنِ الْهَوَىٰ * إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا وَحْيٌ يُوحَىٰ﴾ (سُورَةُ النَّجْمِ، ٣-٤)

"Nor does he (Muhammad-SAAW) speak of his own desire. It is no less than an inspiration sent down to him." (Qur'an 53: 3-4)

So, in obeying the Prophet's *Sunnah* we are obeying Allaah. There should be no resistance to the way of the Prophet (SAAW). He (SAAW) must be taken as a judge in all disputes as Allaah clearly stated:

﴿ فَلَا وَرَبِّكَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ حَتَّىٰ يُحَكِّمُوكَ فِيمَا شَجَرَ بَيْنَهُمْ ثُمَّ لَا يَجِدُوا فِي أَنفُسِهِمْ حَرَجًا مِّمَّا قَضَيْتَ وَيُسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا ﴾ (سُورَةُ النِّسَاءِ، ٦٥)

"But no, by the Lord, they can have no Faith, until they make you judge in all disputes between them, and find in themselves no resistance against your decisions, but accept (them) with full submission." (Qur'an 4: 65)

﴿ فَلْيَحْذَرِ الَّذِينَ يُخَالِفُونَ عَنْ أَمْرِهِ أَنْ تُصِيبَهُمْ فِتْنَةٌ أَوْ يُصِيبَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ ﴾ (سُورَةُ النُّورِ، ٦٣)

"Let those who oppose the Messenger's commandment⁷ (among the sects) beware, lest some *Fitnah*⁸ befall them, (which will lead them to disbelief) or a grievous torment be inflicted on them." (Qur'an 24: 63)

The Prophet (SAAW) said:

*"He who does an act which our matter (i.e., our religion) is not in agreement with, will have it rejected."*⁹

The *Sunnah* of the Prophet (SAAW) is surely safeguarded as Allaah promised to save the Message of Islam from any human corruption.

The following of the *Sunnah* of the Prophet (SAAW) is the manifestation of the Declaration: **"MUHAMMAD IS THE MESSENGER OF ALLAAH"**:

⁷i.e., His *Sunnah* including legal ways, orders, acts of worship, statements, etc.

⁸Trial : Shirk, disbelief, afflictions, earthquakes, trials, etc.

⁹Related by Al-Bukhari and Muslim.

﴿ قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ ﴾ (سُورَةُ آلِ عِمْرَانَ، ٣١)

"Say (O Muhammad to mankind): 'If you (really) love Allaah, then follow me (i.e., accept and follow the Qur'an & Sunnah), Allaah will love you and forgive you your sins. And Allaah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.'"(Qur'an 3: 31)

The duty of the Muslim is to follow the Book of Allaah (Qur'an) and the *Sunnah* of the Prophet (SAAW). The early Muslims did just that. They were very successful. They understood the Qur'an and Sunnah as the Prophet (SAAW) explained to them. Therefore, their understanding of Islam is the best. We must follow our righteous predecessors to achieve the correct understanding of our worship of Allaah and thus our salvation.

**THE DECLARATION OF *Ash-Shahadatan*
IS IT ENOUGH TO "SAY" IT?**

The Belief in Tawheed does not only mean that man accepts that there is no *Rabb* (Sovereign Lord) but Allaah. In fact, prior to the Revelation of the Qur'an, people in Mecca believed in the *Ruboobiyah* (Lordship) of Allaah. But they committed *Shirk* by setting up rivals with Allaah in worship. Tawheed, however, embodies the love of Allaah, submission to Him, humility to Him, complete obedience to Him, honesty of worship to Him, seeking Him alone: all sayings and deeds, abstaining, giving, love and hate must be done for His sake. Whoever, acknowledge this then he/she would understand the saying of the Prophet Muhammad (SAAW):

" إِنَّ اللَّهَ حَرَّمَ عَلَى النَّارِ مَنْ قَالَ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ يَتَّبِعِي بِذَلِكَ وَجْهَ اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ "
صحيح - رواه مسلم

*"Allaah forbade the admittance to Hell of anyone who says that 'There is no God Who deserves to be worshipped except Allaah, seeking Wajhul'lah (the Face¹⁰ of Allaah)."*¹¹

¹⁰*Wajhul'lah: The Face of Allaah*, is a real and true attribute of Allaah. Like all of His Names and Attributes there is nothing like unto Him. The Qur'an and authentic Sunnah confirm the Names and Attributes of Allaah as well as His Actions. The believer does not alter anything confirmed by Allaah or by His Messenger (SAAW). The Names and Attributes have real meanings, however, only Allaah knows the **HOW** of these Names and Attributes. It is understood from the hadeeth that in seeking the Face of Allaah, there can be no room for dishonesty, association in worship, or any action or saying that would displease Allaah (SW).

¹¹An authentic hadeeth collected by Muslim.

In no way it means that the uttering of this declaration by the tongue is enough to save one from the Fire of Hell. In fact the hypocrites utter it yet it is known that they are in the lowest part of Hell. Allaah informed us in the Qur'an:

﴿ إِنَّ الْمُنَافِقِينَ فِي الدَّرَكِ الْأَسْفَلِ مِنَ النَّارِ وَلَنْ تَجِدَ لَهُمْ نَصِيرًا ﴾
(سُورَةُ النَّسَاءِ، ١٤٥)

"Verily the hypocrites will be in the lowest paths of the Fire; no helper will you find for them."(Qur'an 4:145)

It is a must that the declaration of *Ash-Shahadatan* be confirmed in the heart as well as by the tongue. The heart should reflect knowledge:

a) about the belief in the meaning of this declaration, b) about what confirms its meaning and what negates it and c) about the uniqueness of the truth about Allaah (SW).

Once these matters are established in the heart they will help transform the status of the person in the sense that the Fire of Hell will be forbidden on him. It has been narrated that the Prophet (SAAW) said :

" من قال لا إله إلا الله، وكفر بما يعبد من دون الله، حُرِّمَ ماله، ودمه وحسابه
على الله عزَّ وجلَّ " صحيح-رواه مسلم وأحمد

"Whoever says 'there is no true God Who deserves to be worshipped but Allaah' and declares Kufr (Disbelieve) in whatever is worshipped besides Allaah then his money and blood are Haram

*(Forbidden to be harmed in his money and blood) and the judgment (upon this person) is up to Allaah."*¹²

The above Hadeeth is a great explanation for the true meaning of 'There is no god but Allaah'. It emphasizes that there must be a complete dissociation from anyone/anything being worshipped other than Allaah (a righteous man, a star, moon, fire, river, cow, Buddha, Ghandi, Jesus, Khomeini, Malcom X, Farakhan, graves, statues, money, lust, heads of states, etc.) beloved, obeyed, or followed more than or equal to Allaah and His Messenger Muhammad (SAAW). *Anyone who elevates anything/anyone (other than Allaah) to Divine levels exits Islam even if he utters the declaration of Tawheed. WHEN THE PERSON DECLARES DISBELIEVE IN WHATEVER IS BEING WORSHIPPED OTHER THAN ALLAAH THEN HE BECOMES A MUSLIM.*

It is very clear that the disbelievers (*Kuffar*) of Makkah knew what the Prophet (SAAW) meant by the word he brought to them from Allaah: "There is no god but Allaah". They believed that Allaah was the Sustainer, the One Who gives life, the one Who ends it, but when Muhammad (SAAW) told them to say: "There is no True God Who deserves to be worshipped except Allaah." Their answer was:

﴿أَجْعَلِ الْآلِهَةَ إِلهًا وَاحِدًا إِنَّ هَذَا لَشَيْءٌ عُجَابٌ﴾ (سُورَةُ ص، ٥)

"Has he made the "gods" (all) into one God (Allaah)? Verily, this is a curious thing!" (Qur'an 38: 5)

They knew it meant the abolishing of everything they introduced between them and Allaah, which according to their belief, would bring them "closer" to Allaah. This word of Tawheed brought an end

¹²Collected by Imam Ahmad and Muslim.

to their intermediaries. If it was just a "word" to be said, they could have said it and that would have been it! They knew it was the word that would bring true liberation to man, a liberation that will bring up true worship to the One and only One God: **Allaah** (SW) and this was the reason behind their rejection. The belief in the true meaning of the declaration of Tawheed leads to *Aj-Jannah*. Rejecting it leads to an eternal abode in Hell.

WHY STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF TAWHEED ?

Know, May Allaah's Mercy be upon you that:

First: All of the Qur'an deals with Tawheed, its implications and its rewards as well as *Shirk*, its people and their punishment. In the Qur'an there is either:

1) Information about the Names and Attributes of Allaah (SW) and this is known as the **Tawheed of the Names & Attributes** . So,

﴿ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴾ (سُورَةُ الْفَاتِحَةِ، ٢)

"Praise be to Allaah, the Lord of The Worlds." (Qur'an 1: 2) is Tawheed

﴿ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ﴾ (سُورَةُ الْفَاتِحَةِ، ٣)

"The Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful." (Qur'an 1: 3) is Tawheed

﴿ مَالِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ ﴾ (سُورَةُ الْفَاتِحَةِ، ٤)

"Master of the Day of Recompense." (Qur'an 1: 4) is Tawheed

None is Similar to Allaah or equal to Him in All of His Names and Attributes, they are true and Unique to Him (SW).

2) A call to worship none except Allaah (SW) and this is known as the **Tawheed of worship (Uboodiyah)**:

﴿ إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ ﴾ (سُورَةُ الْفَاتِحَةِ، ٥)

(You alone we do worship, and You alone we seek for help)
(Qur'an 1: 5) is Tawheed.

3) Obedience: Allaah (SW) demands obedience in the form of compliance or abstinence. Hence the worshipper must beg for guidance from Allaah Alone:

﴿ اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ ﴾ (سُورَةُ الْفَاتِحَةِ، ٦)

"Guide us to the Straight Path." (Qur'an 1: 6) is Tawheed that includes the request to Allaah to show us the straight way that leads to His obedience. It includes the request to safeguard us from deviation and all astray ways.

4) Knowing that Allaah's Promise of good in this life and in the Hereafter is True: the worshipper of Allaah calls upon Him to make him amongst:

﴿ صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ ﴾ (سُورَةُ الْفَاتِحَةِ، ٧)

"Those on whom You have bestowed Your Grace." (Qur'an 1: 7). This is the Reward of Tawheed.

5) Information and examples about the people of *Shirk* and what has been inflicted upon them in the life of this world and the punishment they will suffer in the Hereafter:

﴿ إِنَّكُمْ وَمَا تَعْبُدُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ حَصْبُ جَهَنَّمَ لَهَا أَنْتُمْ لَهَا وَارِدُونَ ﴾
(سورة الأنبياء، ٩٨)

"You and the false deities that you worship beside Allaah are (but) fuel for Hell! To it you will surely come." (Qur'an 21: 98)

Second: All the Messengers called their nations to Tawheed, in compliance with the orders of Allaah (SW). This is a great proof of the magnitude of this matter of belief. Allaah (SW) says:

﴿ وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ مِنْ رَسُولٍ إِلَّا نُوحِي إِلَيْهِ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاعْبُدُونِ ﴾
(سُورَةُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ، ٢٥)

"And We did not send any Messenger before you (O Muhammad-SAAW) but We inspired him (saying): 'There is none who has the right to be worshipped but I (Allaah), So worship Me (Alone)'. " (Qur'an 21: 25)

The Prophet (SAAW) taught Tawheed to his followers and raised their awareness about it while they were still young. He (SAAW) told his first cousin Abdullah bin Abbass (RAA¹³):

" إذا سألت فاسأل الله وإذا استعنت فاستعن بالله "
(رواه الترمذي وقال حديث حسن صحيح)

*"If you ask, ask Allaah (Alone); if you seek help, seek the help of Allaah (alone)."*¹⁴

Third: The Messenger (SAAW) taught his followers that the first thing they must call the people for is Tawheed. He (SAAW) told *Mu'ath bin Jabal* when he sent him to Al-Yaman:

¹³RAA: *Radiya Allahu Annhu (or Anha)*, May Allaah be pleased with him (or her)

¹⁴Related by At-Tirmidhi who said it is a good and sound hadeeth.

عن ابن عباس رضي الله عنهما أن رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم لما بعث معاذاً إلى اليمن قال: "إنك تأتي قوماً من أهل الكتاب فليكن أول ما تدعوهم إليه شهادة أن لا إله إلا الله"

*"You will be reaching people of the Book (Jews and/or Christians), let your first act be to call them to witness that there is no True God that has the right to be worshipped except Allaah."*¹⁵ According to another narration by Al-Bukhari *"to perform the Tawheed of Allaah."*

Fourth: Tawheed is the true essence of Islam. Allaah (SW) had created the *Jinn* (unseen beings created from fire) and mankind for the sole purpose of establishing Tawheed. The famous and great scholar *Ibin Taymeeyah*¹⁶ (May Allaah's Mercy be upon him) said:¹⁷

"The hearts can feel no real happiness nor a real fulfilling pleasure of enjoyment except in the way of Love of Allaah and seeking closeness to Him (SW) by following what He loves. There can be no love of Allaah except by turning away from anyone/anything being loved other than Allaah and this is the true meaning of "There is no God but Allaah". It is the creed of Ibraheem (Abraham-The peace of Allaah be upon him) and that of all other Prophets and Messengers (The Peace of Allaah and His Prayers be upon them all)."

¹⁵Collected by Al-Bukhari and Muslim.

¹⁶The renowned scholar of Islam. He was born in the year 1263 CE. He mastered various disciplines of Islamic studies at an early age. He had strongly defended the Sunnah of the Prophet (SAAW) and stood firmly against innovations introduced by philosophers and *Kalam* (scholastic) sects who plotted for his imprisonment on numerous occasions. He physically defended the Muslims in *Ash-Shaam* (composed of Syria, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon) against invasions by the Tartars. He died in 1328 CE while in prison in Damascus following his *Fatawa* (Islamic Legal Rulings) against innovators. His writings are still a great reference for Muslims seeking knowledge about Islam.

¹⁷*Ibin Taymeeyah* quoted in his book *Al-Fatawa* (Islamic Decrees, in Arabic). V 28, P.32

The other part of the declaration of Tawheed "*Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah*", means to establish the true following of Muhammad (SAAW): by obeying all that which he had ordered and abstaining from doing what he had declared to be unlawful. Following him (SAAW) is the true manifestation of Tawheed:

﴿ وَمَا آتَاكُمُ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ فَانْتَهُوا وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ ﴾ (سُورَةُ الْحَشْرِ، ٧)

"And whatsoever the Messenger gives you, take it. And whatsoever he forbids, abstain (from it) and fear Allaah. Verily Allaah is severe in punishment." (Qur'an 59: 7)

That is why the declaration "*There is no god but Allaah*" is a negation of all false deities and confirmation of the only True God, Allaah and His right to be worshipped alone. It is an allegiance to Allaah, His Only accepted religion-Islam, His Book, the Sunnah of His Messenger (SAAW), and His righteous *Ibaad* (worshippers). It is a complete dissociation from any worship to *Taghoot* (All forms of false deities). Allaah (SW) says:

﴿ فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ وَيُؤْمِنِ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدِ اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ لَا انفِصَامَ لَهَا وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ ﴾ (سُورَةُ الْبَقَرَةِ، ٢٥٦)

"Whosoever disbelieves in false deities and believes in Allaah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break." (Qur'an 2: 256)

The truth of the matter is that Allaah (SW) had created us to worship Him alone and that the right of Allaah upon us is to worship Him alone and associate no partners with Him:

﴿ وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ ﴾ (سُورَةُ الذَّارِيَاتِ، ٥٦)

"I never created *Aj-Jinn* and mankind but to worship Me Alone."(Qur'an 51: 56)

The Prophet (SAAW) said:

عن معاذ بن جبل رضي الله عنه قال :
"كنت رديف النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم على حمار فقال لي : يا معاذ أتدري ما حقُّ
الله على العباد ، وما حق العباد على الله؟ قلت: الله ورسوله اعلم . قال: حق الله
على العباد أن يعبدوه ولا يشركوا به شيئاً ... " الحديث بأكمله -أخرج في
الصحيحين

"The right of Allaah upon His Ibaad (the created beings) is that they worship Him alone, and do not associate in worship anyone/anything with Him."¹⁸

Fifth: Allaah (SW) had ordained *Jihad* (fighting in the cause of Allaah) so that Tawheed prevails and that the earth be purified from the affliction of *Shirk*. Tawheed is the Greatest Justice on earth. Muslims are not passive when it comes to the truth. They are ordered by Allaah to spread the truth by every peaceful mean. When falsehood stands opposing the spreading of the Tawheed, Allaah (SW) says:

﴿ وَقَاتِلُوهُمْ حَتَّى لَا تَكُونَ فِتْنَةً وَيَكُونَ الدِّينُ لِلَّهِ فَإِنِ انْتَهَوْا فَلَا عُدْوَانَ إِلَّا عَلَى الظَّالِمِينَ ﴾ (سُورَةُ الْبَقَرَةِ، ١٩٣)

¹⁸Collected by Al-Bukhari and Muslim.

"And fight them until there is no more *Fitnah* (disbelief and worshipping of others with Allaah) and (all and every kind of) worship is for Allaah (Alone). But if they cease let there be no transgression except against *Ath'thalimeen* (polytheists, and wrong-doers, etc.)" (Qur'an 2: 193)

Ibin Jarrer (May Allaah's Mercy be upon him) said in the *Tafseer* (explanation) of the above *Ayah*: 'And fight the *Mushrikeen* (People of *Shirk*) until there is no affliction i.e., until there is no more *Shirk* and until worshipping of Idols and false gods and the setting up of rivals with Allaah are vanished. And until obedience becomes completely devoted to Allaah alone, none to Statues and Idols'. Qutadah (another scholar of *Tafseer*) said: 'Until there is no *Shirk*.'

The Prophet (SAAW) said: "I have been ordered (by Allaah) to fight against the people so long as they do not say: 'There is no God but Allaah' and he who professed it was granted full protection of his property and life on my behalf except for a right, and his other affairs rest with Allaah."¹⁹

Sixth: To reject *Shirk* as the greatest sin and most terrible injustice, and to accept Tawheed is the greatest and most trustworthy handhold that will never break. Anyone who does not learn about the meaning of Tawheed may commit grave acts of *Shirk* and thus subject himself to the punishment and wrath of Allaah (SW). Guidance and security is granted to those who strive to live their lives in accordance with the principles of Tawheed. Allaah (SW) says:

﴿ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَلَمْ يَلْبِسُوا ءِيمَانَهُمْ بِظُلْمٍ أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمُ الْأَمْنُ وَهُمْ مُهْتَدُونَ ﴾
(سُورَةُ الْأَنْعَامِ، ٨٢)

¹⁹Collected by Muslim.

"It is those who believe and confuse not with wrong (i.e., worshipping others beside Allaah) for them (alone) there is security and they are the guided." (Qur'an 6: 82)

It is narrated that Abdullah bin Mas'ud (RAA) said: "When this *Ayah* was revealed, the Muslims felt a kind of hardship and said: 'Who amongst us who does not do wrong?' The Messenger of Allaah (SAAW) answered: 'It is not as you think, it is the *Shirk* (which is meant), didn't you hear the saying of Lugman to his Son?' (And he recited the *Ayah*): "O my son! do not ascribe partners to Allaah; Verily, the *Shirk* is a terrible injustice."²⁰

And those who Commit *Shirk*:

﴿ إِنَّهُ مَنْ يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ الْجَنَّةَ وَمَأْوَاهُ النَّارُ وَمَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِنْ أَنْصَارٍ ﴾ (سُورَةُ الْمَائِدَةِ، ٧٢)

"Verily whoever sets up rivals in worship with Allaah, than Allaah has forbidden *Al-Jannah* for him and the Hell will be his abode." (Qur'an 5:72)

May Allaah help us to realize the great importance of Tawheed. So, let us give this matter our best care, learn it and teach it to others. We must study this subject at our home, *Masjid* (Mosque), in *Halaqat* (study groups), and with '*Ulama*' (Scholars of Islam) so that we can, by the help and Mercy of Allaah, be from amongst whom Allaah is pleased with. Let us be aware that some of this Umma will follow the path of the *Mushrikeen*. The Prophet (SAAW) said describing them:

²⁰Collected by Al-Bukhari and Muslim.

"The Hour will not be established until tribes of my Ummah follow the Mushrikeen and until they worship idols." ²¹ May Allaah save us from following such tribes.

²¹An authentic hadeeth narrated by abu Dawoud and a similar meaning to it is related by Muslim.

AVOID TEN WAYS THAT BREACH YOUR TAWHEED!

Know, may Allaah's Mercy be upon you, that Allaah (SW) made it very clear that mankind must follow Islam, hold to it and dissociate from whatever contradicts it. The declaration that "*There is no God but Allaah*" not only negates all false deities and confirms worship only to Allaah, it also requires the complete dissociation from any form of worship to any false deity; Allaah (SW) says:

﴿لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ وَيُؤْمِنْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدِ اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ لَا انْفِصَامَ لَهَا وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ﴾ (سُورَةُ الْبَقَرَةِ، ٢٥٦)

"There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the right path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in *Taghut* (false deities)²² and believes in Allaah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break." (Qur'an 2: 256)

Furthermore, to declare that *Muhammad (SAAW) is the Messenger and slave of Allaah* requires the belief that Muhammad (SAAW) is trusted by Allaah to deliver the Message of Islam, and that Muhammad (SAAW) is to be followed and obeyed because Allaah (SW) decreed in the Qur'an:

﴿وَمَا آتَاكُمُ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ فَانْتَهُوا وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ﴾ (سُورَةُ النَّحْلِ، ٧)

²²It may be satan, stones, stars, angels, idols, human beings e.g., Jesus, Prophets, Messengers, Saints, graves, rulers, leaders, anything/anyone worshipped other than Allaah.

"And whatsoever the Messenger gives you, take it. And whatsoever he forbids, abstain (from it) and fear Allaah. Verily Allaah is severe in punishment". (Qur'an 59: 7)

All the ways and methods that are needed by the Muslim to fulfill this declaration of Tawheed are explained in the Qur'an and by the Prophet Muhammad (SAAW). Allaah (SW) and His Messenger (SAAW) warned that there are ways that lead to *Shirk, Kuffr* (disbelief), and rejection of Faith. The Muslim must be very knowledgeable about Tawheed so that he does not indulge in practices and concepts that contradict the essence of Tawheed. The most dangerous and widely existing ways that breach Tawheed are:

ONE: *Shirk in the worship of Allaah*: to associate something and/or anyone in the worship of Allaah:

﴿ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُغْفِرُ أَنْ يُشْرَكَ بِهِ وَيَغْفِرُ مَا دُونَ ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ وَمَنْ يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ ضَلَّ ضَلَالًا بَعِيدًا ﴾ (سُورَةُ النَّسَاءِ، ١١٦)

"Verily Allaah forgives not (the sin of) setting up rivals in worship with Him, but He forgives whom He pleases other sins than that." (Qur'an 4: 116)

﴿ إِنَّهُ مَنْ يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ الْجَنَّةَ وَمَأْوَاهُ النَّارُ وَمَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِنْ أَنْصَارٍ ﴾ (سُورَةُ الْمَائِدَةِ، ٧٢)

Verily whosoever sets up rivals in worship with Allaah, then Allaah has forbidden *Aj-Jannah* for him, and the Fire will be his abode." (Qur'an 5: 72)

TWO: To setup intermediaries between a person and Allaah: calling upon them and seeking their intercession and depending upon them. Those who do this are taking "associates" with Allaah and this is *Shirk*. Allaah (SW) says:

﴿ فَلَا تَجْعَلُوا لِلّٰهِ أُنْدَادًا وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ﴾ (سُورَةُ الْبَقَرَةِ، ٢٢)

"Then set not up rivals unto Allaah while you know (well the fact)." (Qur'an 2: 22)

The Prophet (SAAW) was asked: '*Which sin is the Gravest?*' He said: "*That you set up rivals unto Allaah (despite the fact) that He Has created you.*"²³ Allaah (SW) says:

﴿ وَلَا تَدْعُ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ مَا لَا يَنْفَعُكَ وَلَا يَضُرُّكَ فَإِنْ فَعَلْتَ فَإِنَّكَ إِذَا مِنْ الظَّالِمِينَ ﴾ (سُورَةُ يُونُسَ، ١٠٦)

"And call not on other than Allaah, any that will neither profit you, nor hurt you but if (in case) you did so, you shall certainly be one of Ath-thalimeen (who commit *Shirk*)". (Qur'an 10:106)

THREE: Those who do not believe that the Mushrikeen (those who commit *Shirk*) are Kuffar or doubt their Kuffir or defends and corrects the believes of the Kuffar, then they themselves are Kuffar.

This is one of the greatest contradictions to Tawheed: many Muslims are reluctant (and feel ashamed) to say the word "*Kaffir*" to describe a disbeliever or to point out their acts of *Shirk*. Some even look at the *Kuffar* with great deal of admiration, fear and obedience. Those have an inferiority complex that leads them to become blind followers and defenders of *Kuffar* and their ways. Allaah (SW) says:

²³Collected by Al-Bukhari and Muslim.

﴿ وَمَنْ يَتَوَلَّهُمْ مِنْكُمْ فَإِنَّهُ مِنْهُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ ﴾

(سُورَةُ المَائِدَةِ، ٥١)

"And He amongst you who take them (wholeheartedly) as friends, then surely he is one of them." (Qur'an 5: 51)

The Muslim's position about these matters must be a dissociation from *Kuffr* and *Shirk* and Love to Allaah, His Prophet (SAAW) and the believers:

﴿ لَا يَتَّخِذِ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الْكَافِرِينَ أَوْلِيَاءَ مِنْ دُونِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَمَنْ يَفْعَلْ ذَلِكَ فَلَيْسَ مِنَ اللَّهِ فِي شَيْءٍ إِلَّا أَنْ تَتَّقُوا مِنْهُمْ تُقَاةً وَيَحْذَرُكُمْ اللَّهُ نَفْسَهُ وَإِلَى اللَّهِ الْمَصِيرُ ﴾

(آل عمران، ٢٨)

"Let not the believers take the disbelievers *Auliya*' (supporters, helpers, etc.) instead of believers, and whoever does that will never be helped by Allaah in any way, except if you indeed fear a danger from them. And Allaah warns you against Himself (His punishment), and to Allaah is the final return." (Qur'an 3: 28)

FOUR: Those who believe that guidance by someone other than the Prophet Muhammad (SAAW) is better or that ruling by other than the rule of Muhammad (SAAW) is better, then they are Kuffar. The rule of Muhammad (SAAW) is the rule of Allaah:

﴿ فَلَا وَرَبِّكَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ حَتَّى يُحَكِّمُوكَ فِيمَا شَجَرَ بَيْنَهُمْ ثُمَّ لَا يَجِدُوا فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ حَرَجًا مِمَّا قَضَيْتَ وَيُسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا ﴾ (سُورَةُ النِّسَاءِ، ٦٥)

"But no, by your Lord, they can have no Faith, until they make you judge in all disputes between them, and find in their souls no resistance against your decisions, but accept (them) fully with submission."(Qur'an 4: 65)

FIVE: Whoever hates any command or anything of the Prophet's (SAAW) Message although he may be practicing it, becomes a Kaffir.
Allaah (SW) says:

﴿ ذَلِكْ بِأَنَّهُمْ كَرِهُوا مَا أَنْزَلَ اللهُ فَأَحْبَطَ أَعْمَالَهُمْ ﴾ (سُورَةُ مُحَمَّدٍ، ٩)

"That is because they hate that which Allaah has sent down, so He has made their deeds fruitless." (Qur'an 47: 9)

SIX: Any person who mocks any part of Islam or any of Allaah's Names and Attributes becomes a Kaffir.

﴿ وَلَئِنْ سَأَلْتَهُمْ لَيَقُولُنَّ إِنَّمَا كُنَّا نَخُوضُ وَنَلْعَبُ قُلْ أَبِاللهِ وَعَآيَاتِهِ وَرَسُولِهِ كُنْتُمْ تَسْتَهْزِءُونَ ﴾ (سُورَةُ التَّوْبَةِ، ٦٥)

"Was it at Allaah, and His signs, and His Messenger that you were mocking? Make no excuse, you have disbelieved (became Kuffar) after you had believed."(Qur'an 9: 65)

SEVEN: Involvement in Magic, including practicing or accepting ways that may (i) sway man from the good things he likes (e.g., using magic to sow discord between a man and his wife) or (ii) Reduce man to do what he dislikes or is bad for him. These ways of magic are Satanic. Allaah (SW) says:

﴿ وَمَا كَفَرَ سُلَيْمَانُ وَلَكِنَّ الشَّيَاطِينَ كَفَرُوا يُعَلِّمُونَ النَّاسَ السِّحْرَ وَمَا أُنزِلَ عَلَى الْمَلَكَيْنِ بِبَابِلَ هَارُوتَ وَمَارُوتَ وَمَا يُعَلِّمَانِ مِنْ أَحَدٍ حَتَّى يَقُولَا إِنَّمَا نَحْنُ فِتْنَةٌ فَلَا تَكْفُرْ فَيَتَعَلَّمُونَ مِنْهُمَا مَا يُفَرِّقُونَ بِهِ بَيْنَ الْمَرْءِ وَزَوْجِهِ وَمَا هُمْ بِضَارِّينَ بِهِ مِنْ أَحَدٍ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ وَيَتَعَلَّمُونَ مَا يَضُرُّهُمْ وَلَا يَنْفَعُهُمْ وَلَقَدْ عَلِمُوا لَمَنِ اشْتَرَاهُ مَا لَهُ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنْ خَلَقٍ وَلَبِئْسَ مَا شَرَوْا بِهِ أَنْفُسَهُمْ لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴾ (سُورَةُ الْبَقَرَةِ ، ١٠٢)

"Solomon did not disbelieve but the devils disbelieved, teaching men magic and such things that came down at Babylon to the two angels Harut and Marut, but neither of these two (angels) taught anyone (such things) till they had said: We are only for trial, so disbelieve not (by learning the magic from us)." (Qur'an 2: 102)

Today we see many people seek help from the so called fortunetellers. They believe that these tellers know what will happen. This is *Kuffr*. The Prophet (SAAW) warned that:

"من أتى عرافاً أو كاهناً فصدقه بما يقول، فقد كفر بما أنزل على محمد"

صحيح- (صحيح الجامع ٥٩٣٩)

"Whoever goes to a priest (soothsayer or a fortuneteller), and believes him in what he says has committed *Kuffr* and denied what was revealed to Muhammad-SAAW."²⁴

²⁴ An authentic hadeeth reported in *Saheeh Al-Jami'* (a collection of authentic narrations verified by the Scholar of hadeeth Sheikh Muhammad Nassir Ad-Deen al-Albani) V.2 # 5939.

Believing in sorcery and horoscopy is as setting up rivals with Allaah. This is *Shirk*.

EIGHT: Standing by the Mushrikeen, supporting them and helping them against the Muslims is Kuffr. Allaah (SW) says:

﴿ وَمَنْ يَتَوَلَّهُمْ مِنْكُمْ فَإِنَّهُ مِنْهُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ ﴾
(سُورَةُ الْمَائِدَةِ، ٥١)

"And he amongst you who take them as friends, then surely he is one of them." (Qur'an 5: 51)

NINE: Whoever believes that some "special" people don't have to follow the Prophet (SAAW) then he is a Kaffir because he negates the second part of the declaration of Tawheed "Muhammad is the slave and Messenger of Allaah". Such a person had desired a "religion" other than Islam. Allaah (SW) says:

﴿ وَمَنْ يَتَّبِعْ غَيْرَ الْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ وَهُوَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ ﴾
(سُورَةُ آلِ عِمْرَانَ، ٨٥)

"And whoever desires a religion other than Islam, it will never be accepted from him, and in the Hereafter he will be one of the losers." (Qur'an 3: 85)

TEN: The one who completely turns away from the religion of Allaah, does not learn it, and does not practice it, becomes a Kaffir.

﴿ وَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنْ ذُكِّرَ بِآيَاتِ رَبِّهِ ثُمَّ أَعْرَضَ عَنْهَا إِنَّا مِنَ الْمُجْرِمِينَ مُنتَقِمُونَ ﴾
(سُورَةُ السَّجْدَةِ، ٢٢)

"And who does wrong than the one to whom are recited the *Ayat* (proofs, evidences, verses, revelations, etc.) of his Lord, then he turns aside therefrom? Verily, We shall exact retribution from the *Mujrimin* (criminals, disbelievers, polytheists, sinners etc.)" (Qur'an 32: 22)

Finally, it must be pointed out that there is no difference (in accountability) between the one who seriously commits any of the above acts or the one who claims to be just "joking", "playing" or "mocking"! The only exception is when someone commits any of these acts under compulsion, even then his heart must be filled with faith and Tawheed of Allaah.

THE OPPOSITE OF TAWHEED : *SHIRK*

Shirk (Polytheism): is the association of anyone/anything in the worship of Allaah or setting up rivals with Allaah. This is the only sin which Allaah does not forgive.

﴿ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَغْفِرُ أَنْ يُشْرَكَ بِهِ وَيَغْفِرُ مَا دُونَ ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ ﴾

(سورة النساء، ٤٨)

"Verily, Allaah forgives not that rivals should be set up in worship with Him but He forgives save that (anything else) to whom He pleases." (Qur'an 4: 48)

There are two types of *Shirk*:

Ash-Shirk Al-Akbar or Major Shirk

Ash-Shirk Al-Asghar or Minor Shirk

THE MAJOR SHIRK

There are several forms of this type of *Shirk* that the Muslim must be aware of. The following are several manifestations of this *Shirk*:

a) *Shirk Ad-Dua' (Invocation)*

To call other than Allaah such as a Prophet, or a righteous man, seeking, for example, a sustenance or cure from an illness. Allaah (SW) says:

﴿ وَلَا تَدْعُ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ مَا لَا يَنْفَعُكَ أَوْ يَضُرُّكَ ، فَإِنْ فَعَلْتَ فَإِنَّكَ إِذَا مِنْ

الظالمين ﴾ (أي من المشركين) (سورة يونس، ١٠٦)

"And call not other than Allaah, any that will neither profit you, nor hurt you if (in case) you did so, you shall certainly be one of the wrong-doers (committing *Shirk*)."
(Qur'an 10: 106)

The Prophet (SAAW) said:

"من مات وهو يدعو من دون الله نداءً دخل النار" صحيح - رواه البخاري

"Whoever dies while calling a rival besides Allaah will enter Hell."²⁵

﴿والذين تدعون من دونه ما يملكون من قِطْمِيرٍ* إن تدعوهم لا يسمعوا دعاءكم، ولو سمعوا ما استجابوا لكم، ويوم القيامة يكفرون بشرككم ولا يُنبتُّك مثل خبير﴾ (سورة فاطر، ١٣-١٤)

"And those, whom you invoke instead of Him, own not even the thin membrane over the date-stone. If you invoke them, they will not hear to your call, and if (in case) they were to hear, they could not grant it (your request) to you. And on the Day of Resurrection they will deny your worshipping them. And none can inform you (O Muhammad) like Him Who is the knower of all things." (Qur'an 35: 13-14)

b) Shirk in the Attributes of Allaah

To believe that someone may have Divine attributes, for example to believe that a Prophet or a righteous man can know the Unseen:

﴿وعنده مفاتيح الغيب لا يعلمها إلا هو﴾ (سورة الأنعام، ٥٩)

²⁵Collected by Al-Bukhari.

"And with Him are the keys of the unseen, none knows them but He." (Qur'an 6: 59)

c) Shirk Al-Mahabah (Love)

To love someone to the same degree as your love to Allaah:

﴿ وَمَنْ النَّاسِ مِنْ يَتَّخِذُ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ أَنْدَادًا يُحِبُّونَهُمْ كَحُبِّ اللَّهِ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَشَدُّ حُبًّا لِلَّهِ ﴾ (سورة البقرة، ١٦٥)

"Yet of mankind are some who take (for worship) others besides Allaah as rivals (to Allaah). They love them as they love Allaah but those who believe, love Allaah more (than anything else)." (Qur'an 2: 165)

d) Shirk At-Ta'a (Obedience)

Obeying someone against the authority of Allaah:

﴿ اتَّخَذُوا أَحْبَارَهُمْ وَرُهْبَانَهُمْ أَرْبَابًا مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ، وَالْمَسِيحَ ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا إِلَهًا وَاحِدًا ﴾ (سورة التوبة، ٣١)

"They (Jews and Christians) took their Rabbis and their Monks to be their Lords (by obeying them in things that they made lawful or unlawful according to their own desires and not according to the orders of Allaah) besides Allaah and they also took as their Lord, Jesus son of Mary while they (Jews and Christians were ordered in the Torah and the Gospel) to worship none but One God (Allaah): There is none to be worshipped but He, praise and glory be to him (far above is He) from having the partners they associate (with Him)." (Qur'an 9: 31)

The Prophet (SAAW) said:

" لا طاعة لمخلوق في معصية الخالق " صحيح - رواه أحمد

"There can be no obedience to any created human-being if it contradicts the obedience to the Creator (Allaah)."²⁶

e) Shirk Al-Hulul (The Shirk of Dwelling-Pantheism)

This is the belief that Allaah is united with His creation. This doctrine defines Allaah as dwelling in various forces and workings of the Universe. The mystic sect of Sufism and its infamous preacher Ibn Arabi (560-638 Hj²⁷) adopted similar beliefs. Some Sufi people think that their Scholars are under divine revelation. Most of these beliefs originated in India and Persia and are philosophical in nature. Christians after Jesus, peace be upon him, adopted the concept of "Dwelling" and called it *Incarnation*. To them, "Jesus is God incarnate". Allaah is high above what they attribute to Him. Allaah is above on His 'Arsh (Throne) distinct from His creation. He knows everything. He sees everything, the hidden and the manifested. He encompasses everything but does not dwell in anything. The concept of "incarnation" contradicts the Perfect Attributes of Allaah. No one with the simplest common sense would like to think of Allaah united with a human being because it necessitates a change of His Attributes, from the Divine and Perfect to that of the imperfect human. All creation is in need of Allaah, the Creator. He says to the matter be and it is. He is most Glorified in His Names and Attributes.

f) The Shirk of Tas-Sar'ruf (Running the Affairs)

This is to believe that there are some people who can run the affairs

²⁶An authentic hadeeth collected by Imam Ahmad.

²⁷Hj= refers to the Islamic Calender of *Hijrah* (migration). The First day of this Calender is the day when the Prophet Muhammad (SAAW) migrated to Madeenah from Makkah.

of the universe. The Sufi mystics call such people: *Aqtab*. Know that those who committed Shirk in Arabia at the time of the Prophet (SAAW) knew that Allaah alone is the One Who controls and runs the affairs of the Universe. They had, however, set up intermediates between them and Allaah, committing Shirk in Worship (calling their intermediates for help, aid, etc.) They did not commit The Shirk of Ruboobiyah (i.e., they testified that Allaah is the true Lord Sustainer, Provider, Creator, The One Who runs the Affairs, and the Perfect Master).

﴿ ومن يدبر الأمر ؟ فسيقولون الله ﴾ (سورة يونس، ٣١)

"And who rules and regulates all affairs? They will say: "Allaah"
(Qur'an 10: 31)

g) Shirk Al-Khau'f (Fear)

Fearing that some men (dead or alive, present or absent) have certain powers by which they could harm others!:

﴿ أليس الله بكاف عبده، ويخوفونك بالذين من دونه ﴾ (سورة الزمر، ٣٦)

"Is not Allaah Sufficient for His Slaves? Yet they try to frighten you with those (whom they worship) besides Him!" (Qur'an 39: 36)

﴿ وكيف أخاف ما أشركتم ولا تخافون انكم أشركتم بالله ما لم ينزل به عليكم

سلطانا ﴾ (سورة الأنعام، ٨١)

"And why should I fear those whom you associate in worship with Allaah (though they can neither benefit nor harm) when you fear not that you have joined in worship with Allaah things for which he has sent down to you no authority?" (Qur'an 6: 81)

Normal fear from certain animals, or a cruel oppressor is not *Shirk*.

h) *Shirk Al-Hakimyeeyah (Governership)*

Choosing and/or accepting a rule other than the rule of Allaah, believing that it is better than the rule of Allaah or equal to it, is *Shirk*. Those who resort to the adoption and implementation of laws that are contradictory to the Islamic laws commit *Kuffr*. Similarly, those who believe that the Islamic Laws do not "fit" to our contemporary times, commit *Kuffr*. Allaah (SW) says:

﴿ أَمْ لَهُمْ شُرَكَاءَ شَرَعُوا لَهُمْ مِنَ الدِّينِ مَا لَمْ يَأْذَنَ بِهِ اللَّهُ ﴾

(سورة الشورى، ٢١)

"Or have they partners with Allaah who have made laws for them in religion that which Allaah allowed not?" (Qur'an 42: 21)

Those who are convinced that the Laws of Allaah are the Most Perfect and Most Beneficial Laws, but violate them because they

a) want to inflict harm upon someone or achieve some worldly gains for another, commit *Thulm* (a form of *Al-Kuffr Al-'Amali: Practical Kuffr*, or *Kuffr of the lesser degree*):

﴿ وَمَنْ لَمْ يَحْكَمْ بِمَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ ﴾ (سورة المائدة، ٤٥)

"And whosoever does not judge by what Allaah has revealed, such are *Al-Thalimun* (i.e. committing *Thulm*)." (Qur'an 5: 45)

b) have certain desires or self interests, commit *Fissq* which is another form of *Al-Kuffr Al-'Amali* and it does not make them non-Muslims:

﴿ وَمَنْ لَمْ يَحْكَمْ بِمَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ ﴾ (سورة المائدة، ٤٧)

"And whosoever does no judge by what Allaah has revealed (then) such (people) are the *Fassiqun* (i.e. committing *Fissq*)."
(Qur'an 5: 47)

The *Practical Kuffr* is major wrong that may encourage the person to commit further transgression that would lead him to reject the law of Allaah with conviction. On the other hand, Muslims are called not to hasten and judge that a particular person (ruler or otherwise) is *Kaffir* until proofs are well established and after clear advice has been made. The person should understand what is *Kuffr* and what leads to it. The judgment can only be made after clear rejection of the evidences as well as the advice. The scholars of Islam who understand the rulings about belief and *kuffr* as explained by *As-Salafus-Salih* are the ones who can properly address the seriousness of this matter.

SPECIAL NOTES

1-The deeds of a person committing Major *Shirk* will be in vain:

﴿ وَلَقَدْ أَوْحَىٰ إِلَيْكَ وَإِلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ لَئِنْ أَشْرَكْتَ لَيَحْبَطَنَّ عَمَلُكَ وَلَتَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ ﴾ (سورة الزمر، ٦٥)

"And indeed it has been revealed to you (O Muhammad) as it was to those before you (saying): 'if you join others in worship with Allaah (then) surely (all) your deeds will be in vain and you certainly be among the losers'." (Qur'an 39: 65)

This *Ayah* is addressing the Prophet (SAAW), so how about the ordinary Muslim? It is a must that we know all aspects of our belief and particularly **Tawheed** and its opposite, *Shirk*.

2-Allaah does not forgive those committing Major *Shirk* unless they sincerely repent and dissociate themselves completely from it. The Prophet (SAAW) said:

« من مات لا يُشْرِكُ بِاللَّهِ شَيْئًا دَخَلَ الْجَنَّةَ وَمَنْ مَاتَ يُشْرِكُ بِاللَّهِ شَيْئًا دَخَلَ النَّارَ » صحيح - رواه أحمد ومسلم .

"He who dies without associating anyone (anything) with Allaah would enter *Aj-Jannah* and he who dies associating anyone (anything) with Allaah would enter *Hell Fire*."²⁸

عن أنس رضي الله عنه قال : سمعت رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم يقول :
« قال الله تعالى : يا ابن آدم ، إني ما دعوتني ورجوتني ، غفرْتُ لك على ما كان منك ولا أبالي . يا ابن آدم ، لو بلغتْ ذُنُوبُكَ عِنانَ السماءِ ثم استغفرتني ، غفرتُ لك . يا ابن آدم ، إني ما دعوتني بقرابِ الأرضِ خطايا ثم لقيتني لا تشركني بي شيئاً ، لأتيتك بقرابها مغفرةً » . الترمذي - وقال حديث حسن صحيح .

On the authority of Anas (RAA), who said: I heard the Messenger of Allaah (SAAW) say:

"Allaah the Almighty has said: O son of Adam, so long as you call Me (Alone) and ask of Me (Alone), I shall forgive you for what you have done, and I shall not mind. O son of Adam, were your sins to reach the clouds of the sky and were you then to ask forgiveness of

²⁸An authentic hadeeth collected by Ahmad and Muslim.

Me, I would forgive you. O son of Adam, were you to come to Me with sins nearly as great as the earth and were you then to face Me, ascribing no partner to Me, I would bring you forgiveness nearly as great as it (i.e., as the earth)." ²⁹

The above hadeeth is not an open road for committing major sins. Allaah may or may not (and He is the Most Just and All-Wise) punish some Muslims who die without repenting from major sins. In case of punishment, no Muslim shall eternally stay in Hell. Because of their belief in Tawheed, those punished will be removed from Hell and brought to live an eternal life in *Aj-Jannah*. The Prophet (SAAW) said:

عن أبي سعيد الخدري رضي الله عنه قال : « قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم : « *أما أهل النار الذين هم أهلها ، فإنهم لا يموتون فيها ولا يحيون ، ولكن ناس منكم أصابتهم النار بذنوبهم أو قال بخطاياهم ، فأما هم الله تعالى إماتة ، حتى إذا كانوا فحماً أذن بالشفاعة فجيء بهم ضبائر ضبائر فبُتُوا على أنهار الجنة ، ثم قيل : يا أهل الجنة أفيضوا عليهم فيبتون نبات الجنة تكون في حميل السيل* » صحيح - رواه مسلم .

"It is reported by Abu Sa'eed Al-Khudri that the Messenger of Allaah (SAAW) said: The (Permanent) inhabitants of the Fire are those who are doomed to it, and verily they would not die nor live in it. But the people whom the Fire would afflict (temporarily) on account of their sins, or so said (the narrator) "on account of their misdeeds", He would cause them to die till they will be turned into charcoal. Then they will be granted intercession and would be brought in groups and would be spread on the rivers of Aj-Jannah and then it would be said: O inhabitants of Aj-Jannah, pour water over them; then they would sprout forth like the sprouting of seed in the slit carried by flood." ³⁰

²⁹Collected by At-Tirmidhi who said it is a good and sound hadeeth.

³⁰Collected by Muslim.

وقال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم:

"يَدْخُلُ أَهْلُ الْجَنَّةِ الْجَنَّةَ وَأَهْلُ النَّارِ النَّارَ، ثُمَّ يَقُولُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى: أَخْرِجُوا مَنْ كَانَ فِي قَلْبِهِ مِثْقَالُ حَبَّةٍ مِنْ خَرْدَلٍ مِنْ إِيمَانٍ" متفق عليه -اللفظ للبخاري

"When the people of Paradise will enter Aj-Jannah and the people of Hell will go to Hell, Allaah, will order those who have had faith equal to the weight of grain of mustard seed to be taken out from Hell." 31

2- THE MINOR SHIRK

It is a Major sin. It could lead to Major *Shirk*. It does not, however, make the Muslim a *Kaffir* (i.e., Non-Muslim). The one who commits a major sin remains a Muslim unless he disregards Allaah's prohibitions and makes it permissible for himself to indulge in sin. In this case he exits the fold of Islam. The following are Islamically considered as acts of Minor *Shirk*.

a)- Minor Riya' (Minor Showing-off or Pretence)

The Muslim prays for Allaah and works for Allaah. When he starts to make acts of worship better only because someone else is present, he commits Minor *Riya'*. Any act of worship or religious deed done to gain praise, fame, or for worldly purposes³² is an act of *Riya'*.

﴿ فَمَنْ كَانَ يَرْجُو لِقَاءَ رَبِّهِ فَلْيَعْمَلْ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا، وَلَا يُشْرِكْ بِعِبَادَةِ رَبِّهِ أَحَدًا ﴾

(سورة الكهف، ١١٠)

³¹Collected by Al-Bukhari and Muslim-the quoted text is that of Al-Bukhari.

³²However, if the intentions are completely devoted to achieve gains in this World then this becomes Major *Shirk*.

"So whoever hopes for the meeting with his Lord, let him work righteousness and associate none as a partner in the worship of his Lord." (Qur'an 18: 110)

The Prophet (SAAW) said :

" إنَّ أخوف ما أخاف عليكم الشرك الأصغر الرياء، يقول الله تعالى يوم القيامة إذاجزى الناس بأعمالهم: إذهبوا إلى الذين تراءون في الدنيا فانظروا هل تجدون عندهم من جزاء " صحيح- رواه أحمد

"The thing I fear Most for you is the Minor Shirk : *the Riya'*. On the Day of Reckoning when Allaah rewards mankind according to their deeds, He will say: 'Go to those whom you used to show off (your deeds) and find out whether you have any reward with them'."³³

b- Making an Oath by other than Allaah

Because the Prophet (SAAW) said:

" من حَلَفَ بغيرِ الله فقد أشرك " صحيح - رواه أحمد

"Whoever makes an Oath by other than Allaah then he had committed Shirk." ³⁴

This could take the form of Major *Shirk* if the person believes that the one by which the Oath is being made could either do benefit or do harm.

c)-Ash-Shirk Al-Khafy (The Inconspicuous Shirk)

³³An authentic hadeeth collected by Ahmad.

³⁴An authentic hadeeth collected by Ahmad.

This is like saying: "Had I done (or not done) such and such or had I said such and such I would have succeeded." It implies being inwardly dissatisfied with the inevitable condition that has been ordained for one by Allaah. Ibin Abbaas (RAA) explained: it is as saying to someone "Allaah Wills and you will, I shall do such and such." Also if someone says: "Had it not been for Allaah and for you, I would have not been able to perform such and such." The Prophet (SAAW) said:

« لا تقولوا ما شاء الله ، وشاء فلان ، ولكن قولوا ما شاء الله ، ثم شاء فلان »
 صحيح - رواه أحمد وغيره .

"Do not say: "Had Allaah **and** such and such person willed! **but** instead say: "Had Allaah **then** such and such person willed." 35

He (SAAW) further warned that:

« الشِّرْكُ فِيكُمْ أَخْفَى مِنْ دَيْبِ النَّمْلِ ، وسأُذْلك على شيء إذا فعلته أذهب
 عنك صغار الشِّرْكِ وكباره ، تقول : اللهم إني أعوذُ بك أن أشركَ بك وأنا
 أعلمُ ، وأستغفرُك لما لا أعلمُ ... » صحيح الجامع ٦٩٤/١ .

"Shirk in the Muslim nation is more inconspicuous than the creeping of the black ant, and I shall tell you about something if you do, you will shun off both the Minor and the Major Shirk: you say, "O! Allaah, I seek refuge in You from associating with You (anyone/anything) while I know, and I seek Your Forgiveness in the things that I do not know." 36

³⁵An authentic hadeeth collected by Ahmad and others.

³⁶Quoted in *Saheeh Al-Jami'* (1/ 694).

SOME FORMS OF *SHIRK* SPREAD AMONGST PEOPLE

1-Calling other than Allaah (e.g., a Prophet, a pious man, a dead leader, a dead scholar, etc.)

2-Burying righteous men in Mosques. Also circulating around graves (in or outside Mosques) or touching them (for blessing!) or seeking their help, etc. are acts of *Shirk*.

Some may raise the question: why the Prophet's grave is in a Mosque? To clarify this matter, there are four facts that need to be known:

a) The Prophet (SAAW) was buried in the room of his wife A'isha and her apartment was not a Mosque.

b) The Prophet (SAAW) established the Mosque during his lifetime outside the apartment of A'isha.

c) It is the Prophet (SAAW) who had prohibited the establishment of Mosques on grave sites, he said:

" لعن الله اليهود والنصارى إتخذوا قبور أنبيائهم مساجد " - متفق عليه

*"The curse of Allaah be upon the Jews and Christians, they have taken the grave sites of their prophets as Masajid (places of worship)."*³⁷

d) The historical fact remains that during the *Khilafah* (Ruling Period) of Al-Walid Bin Abdul Malik (86-96 H_j * 705-715 CE) there was an expansion of the Mosque site and he (may Allaah forgive him) included the apartment of A'isha (RAA). The companions of the

³⁷Collected by Al-Bukhari and Muslim.

Prophet (SAAW) were careful about keeping the Mosque and A'isha's apartment separate. In fact when Omar and Othman expanded the Mosque for the first time, they did not include the grave in their plans. As it stands now, people are not allowed to perform any innovation in religion facing the grave site. The excuse taken by those who bury the pious and righteous inside Mosques is therefore invalid. The action of incorporating the apartment within the Mosque's limit is wrong. But never it was intended to produce scenes of *Shirk* practices.

3) *Slaughtering and/or Offering money to so called "pious" people and taking vows to other than Allaah:*

﴿ يُوَفُونَ بِالنَّذْرِ وَيَخَافُونَ يَوْمًا كَانَ شَرُّهُ مُسْتَطِيرًا ﴾ (الإنسان، ٧)

"They perform (their) vows (to Allaah Alone), and they fear a Day whose evil will be wide-spreading." (Qur'an 76: 7)

The Prophet (SAAW) said:

قال الرسول صلى الله عليه وسلم:

" لعن الله من ذبح لغير الله " (متفق عليه)

"The curse of Allaah be upon whoever offers a slaughtering to other than Allaah."³⁸

4) *Praying towards graves:* This is forbidden because the Prophet (SAAW) said:

" لا تجلسوا على القبور ولا تصلُّوا إليها " صحيح - رواه مسلم

³⁸Collected by Al-Bukhari and Muslim.

"Do not sit on the graves and do not pray facing towards them."³⁹

5) **Shirk in legislation:** where some rulers have adopted man made laws and wholeheartedly support such laws. This is Major *Shirk*.

THE EVILS OF SHIRK

1- **Its an Insult for Human Intellect and Dignity.** Allaah had honored the Children of Adam and put the resources of Earth and Heavens under man's disposal. Those who had taken part of this creation to be rival gods with Allaah had insulted their faculties with ignorance. What would you say to someone who chooses to worship a river, a cow, graves, the sun, the moon, or other humans? The following *Ayah* in the Qur'an is the best advice:

﴿ وَالَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ لَا يَخْلُقُونَ شَيْئاً وَهُمْ يُخْلَقُونَ، أَمْواتٌ غَيْرُ أَحْيَاءِ، وَمَا يَشْعُرُونَ أَيَّانَ يُبْعَثُونَ ﴾ (سورة النحل، ٢١)

"Those whom they (pagans etc.) invokes besides Allaah have not created anything but are themselves created. (They are) dead, lifeless nor do they know when they will be raised up." (Qur'an 16: 21)

2- **Its an Open Way for Superstitions and Falsehood.** Those who believe that there is influence in this Universe by other than Allaah (e.g., by stars, Jinn, ghosts, spirits, etc.), their minds become open to adopt every superstition. They believe in magic, sorcery, witchcraft, soothsayers, astrology, numerology, fortune-cookies, and signs of zodiac (!) It's a viscous circle.

³⁹Collected by Muslim.

3- *Shirk is a Grave Injustice*, because the *Mushrik* (the one who commits *Shirk*) had made himself a slave to a created being like himself. The *Mushrik* gives certain rights to the rival that he had set besides Allaah. This is unjust.

4- *Shirk is a Source of Fear and Delusion*. The person who accepts superstition and other forms of falsehood becomes depended upon many false deities. He enters a state of fear because false deities are unable to bring him any good when they are unable to defend themselves! Allaah (SW) said:

﴿ سَنَلْقِي فِي قُلُوبِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا الرُّعْبَ بِمَا اشْرَكُوا بِاللَّهِ مَا لَمْ يُنَزِّلْ بِهِ سُلْطَانًا،
وَمَا وَاوَاهُم النَّارُ وَبِئْسَ مَثْوَى الظَّالِمِينَ ﴾ (سورة آل عمران، ١٥١)

"We shall cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve, because they joined others in worship with Allaah for which He had sent no authority. Their abode will be the Fire; and how evil is the abode of the wrong-doers! " (Qur'an 3: 151)

5- *Shirk Makes the Mushrik Dependent upon his False Deity (ies)*. The *Mushrik's* motivation to do good deeds will be inactivated. He would not hesitate to do wrong believing that his false deity will intercede for him!

﴿ وَيَعْبُدُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ مَا لَا يَضُرُّهُمْ وَلَا يَنْفَعُهُمْ، وَيَقُولُونَ هَؤُلَاءِ شُفَعَاؤُنَا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ، قُلْ أَتَبْتَونَ اللَّهَ بِمَا لَا يَعْلَمُ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَلَا فِي الْأَرْضِ، سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ ﴾ (سورة يونس، ١٨)

"And they worship beside Allaah things that can hurt them not, nor profit them and they say: 'These are our intercessors with Allaah.' Say: 'Do you indeed inform Allaah with which He knows

not, in the heavens or on the earth? 'Glory to Him! and far is He above (the partners) they associate (with Him).'" (Qur'an 10: 18)

That's what Christians had done with Jesus (peace be upon him). They believe that Jesus wanted to die on the cross for the redemption of mankind and for the forgiveness of their sins. This is the doctrine of Paul who argued that "*atonement by Law required complete obedience for which man was incapable.*"⁴⁰ He introduced Jesus (peace be upon him) as the redeeming power, "*providing atonement for sinners who believed in him.*"⁴¹ Jesus (peace be upon him), according to this concept of Paul, was a "*sacrifice*" to reconcile man's sin! This is an ill-opinion of Jesus and of the Lord of Jesus (Allaah), the Oft-Forgiving, the Most Merciful. According to the Biblical texts, there are strong references that contradict Paul's doctrine. Jesus asked God (Allaah) to turn away the cup (of death) away from him (*Matthew, Chapters 26 & 27*). The text itself is incredible: "***O God, if it is possible (!) for you let this cup pass from me, then let it pass.***" Could these words come from a believer, let alone a Prophet of God? All Prophets believe that Allaah has the Power over everything. It is also incredible to read the following text attributed to Jesus: "***My God My God why you had forsaken me!***" (*Matthew 27: 46*). If Jesus knew he had to "*sacrifice*" himself for the sake of humanity, then he should have remained silent when (as Christians claim) he was put on the cross. Another incredible text confirms that God (Allaah) is the only Savior: "***That you may know and believe me, and understand that I am he; before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even, am the Lord; and beside me there is no savior.***" (*Isaiah 43: 10-11*). Certainly Allaah saved Jesus from death and lifted him up to Him in heavens:

⁴⁰"Salvation Through Repentance" by Abu Ameenah Bilal Philips, PP. 13-14; Tawheed Publications-1990, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

⁴¹ibid, footnote # 40

﴿ وَقَوْلِهِمْ إِنَّا قَتَلْنَا الْمَسِيحَ عِيسَى ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ وَمَا صَلَبُوهُ
 وَلَكِنْ شُبِّهَ لَهُمْ وَإِنَّ الَّذِينَ اخْتَلَفُوا فِيهِ لَفِي شَكٍّ مِنْهُ مَا لَهُمْ بِهِ مِنْ عِلْمٍ إِلَّا اتِّبَاعَ
 الظَّنِّ وَمَا قَتَلُوهُ يَقِينًا * بَل رَفَعَهُ اللَّهُ إِلَيْهِ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَزِيزًا حَكِيمًا ﴾ (سورة
 النساء، ١٥٧-١٥٨)

"And for their (the Jews) saying in boast: 'We killed the Messiah Jesus, the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allaah- but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but the resemblance of Jesus was put over another man (and they killed that man). And those who differ therein are full of doubts with no (certainty) of knowledge, but only conjectures. For of surety they killed him not (i.e., Jesus, the son of Mary). But Allaah raised him (Jesus) up (with his body and soul) onto Himself (and he, Jesus is in *Aj-Jannah*). And Allaah is ever All-Powerful, All-Wise.'"(Qur'an 4: 157-158)

6- *Shirk is the Cause for the Eternal Abode in the Fire of Hell and a Complete Loss of Deeds in the Life of this World:*

﴿ إِنَّهُ مِنْ يُشْرِكِ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ الْجَنَّةَ وَمَأْوَاهُ النَّارُ، وَمَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِنْ
 أَنْصَارٍ ﴾ (سورة المائدة، ٧٢)

"Verily whosoever sets up rivals in worship with Allaah, then Allaah has forbidden *Aj-Jannah* for him, and the Fire will be his abode. For wrong-doers (mushrikeen, polytheists, idolaters) there are no helpers."(Qur'an 5: 72)

7- *The Shirk is a Cause of Division of the Muslim Nation.* Allaah (SW) says:

﴿ وَلَا تَكُونُوا مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ، مِنَ الَّذِينَ فَرَّقُوا دِينَهُمْ، وَكَانُوا شِعَابًا كُلُّ حِزْبٍ بِمَا
 لَدَيْهِمْ فَرِحُونَ ﴾ (سورة الروم، ٣١-٣٢)

"And be not of those who ascribe partners (to Him); of those who split up their religion (i.e., those who left the Tawheed) and became sects (i.e., they invented new things in the religion (Bida's), and followed their vain desires), each rejoicing in that which is with it." (Qur'an 30: 32)

The Message of Allaah to everyone is to avoid *Shirk* because no matter what the Mushrikeen do in this life:

﴿ وَقَدِمْنَا إِلَىٰ مَا عَمِلُوا مِنْ عَمَلٍ فَجَعَلْنَاهُ هَبَاءً مَنْثُورًا ﴾ (الفرقان، ٢٣)

And We shall turn to whatever deeds they did, and We shall make such deeds as floating dust scattered about." (Qur'an 25: 23)

Those who are deluded into thinking that they cannot approach Allaah directly due to their sinful deeds, are ignorant about Allaah and His Attributes. This is a Satanic drive aimed at turning people away from Allaah and towards '*mediators*' who are presented as '*friends of Allaah*'. Satan beautifies this approach so that these mediators will be worshipped besides Allaah. The true believer in Allaah, knows Him and knows how to worship Him Alone. It is essential, therefore, to acquire knowledge about Allaah and the way to worship Him as detailed by the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (SAAW). Those who committed sin must not despair and feel hopeless. They must know that Allaah is the Only One True God Who can forgive all sins, including *Shirk*, if people sincerely repent to Him (SW):

﴿ قُلْ يَا عِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِن رَّحْمَةِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ ﴾ (سورة الزُّمَر ، ٥٣)

"Say: "Oh my slaves who have transgressed against themselves (by committing evil deeds and sins)! Despair not of the Mercy of Allaah, for Allaah forgives all sins. He is indeed, Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful." (Qur'an 39: 53)

May Allaah forgive and guide us all, He is All-Merciful, Oft-Forgiving.

May Allaah accept this effort. Any success in this work is from Allaah and any mistake is from me and from *Shaytan* (The Devil).

Signed: 

The slave of Allaah, Dr. Saleh As-Saleh

End of Part-1

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Who Deserves to be Worshipped Alone?

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