

Clarifying some important issues unknown to many Muslims

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allaah the most Kind the most Merciful

Praise be to Allaah the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessings be upon the Slave of Allaah, His Messenger and Slave, the best of His Creatures and His Trustee of the Revelation, our Prophet, Imam and master Muhammad ibn `Abdullah and upon his household and Sahabah (Companions) and those who followed his example and guidance.

This is a concise lecture on some issues which are not known to many people.

It is known that Allaah (سبحانه)¹ created both the Jinn and mankind to worship Him. Thus, He sent the Messengers and revealed the Books to call on people - males and females, jinn and mankind - to worship Him. Worship, which is the wisdom behind sending the Messengers and revealing the Books, is the right of Allaah upon His Slaves, whether males or females, jinn or human, Arabs or non-Arabs, the rich or the poor and the rulers or the ruled. All of them are created in order to worship Allaah and act according to the teachings of the Messengers and the revealed Books. Both the jinn and mankind are ordered to obey Allaah and His Messenger, because they are created to worship, glorify, and obey Allaah (سبحانه).

This is one of the greatest and most important issues. We should know for sure that Allaah created jinn and mankind to worship Him Alone. Therefore, we should abide by His Commands, avoid His Prohibitions, and abstain from what is rendered impermissible by Allaah (سبحانه) and His Messenger (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)². Allaah (عز وجل)³ says, **[And I (Allaah) created not the jinn and mankind except that they should worship Me (Alone).] And, [O mankind! Worship your Lord (Allaah)] And, [O mankind! Be dutiful to your Lord]** These Ayahs (Qur'aanic Verses) address all people, males and females, rulers and the ruled, man and jinn, Arabs and non-Arabs, the rich and the poor. Allaah (سبحانه) says, **[O mankind! Be afraid of your Lord (by keeping your duty to Him and avoiding all evil), and fear a Day when no father can avail aught for his son, nor a son avail aught for his father. Verily, the Promise of Allaah is true: let not then this (worldly) present life deceive you, nor let the**

¹ (سبحانه) (Subhanahu) Exalted be He

² (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

³ (عز وجل) (Azza wa Jaal) Glorified and Exalted be He

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chief deceiver (Satan) deceive you about Allaah.] Allaah also says, [O mankind! Worship your Lord (Allaah), Who created you and those who were before you so that you may become al-Muttaqoon (the pious).]

Allaah also says, **[O mankind! Be dutiful to your Lord, Who created you from a single person (Aadam), and from him (Aadam) He created his wife [Hawwaa (Eve)], and from them both He created many men and women; and fear Allaah through Whom you demand (your mutual rights), and (do not cut the relations of) the wombs (kinship). Surely, Allaah is Ever an All-Watcher over you.]** Allaah also says, **[O mankind! Fear your Lord and be dutiful to Him! Verily, the earthquake of the Hour (of Judgement) is a terrible thing.]** Allaah also says, **[O mankind! We have created you from a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know one another. Verily, the most honourable of you with Allaah is that (believer) who has at-Taqwaa [i.e. he is one of the Muttaqoon (the pious.)]. Verily, Allaah is All-Knowing, All-Aware.]**

In such Ayahs and their likes, Allaah commands people in general to know that they should worship Him because He created them and fear Him by carrying out His Commands and avoiding His Prohibitions. `Ibaadah (worship of Allaah) implies piousness, guidance, righteousness and Islaam with which Allaah sent the Messengers and sent down the Divine Books. It indicates that we should worship Allaah Alone, seek Him Only with our obedience and acts of worship, carry out the acts of worship in accordance with what He (سبحانه) legislated, not to worship anyone beside Him, be it a jinn, a human being, an idol, a star or anything else from among His Creatures. Allaah (سبحانه) says in Soorah-al-Faatihah, **[You (Alone) we worship, and You (Alone) we ask for help (for each and everything).]** And He (سبحانه) says in other Soorahs, **[And they were commanded not, but that they should worship Allaah, and worship none but Him Alone (abstaining from ascribing partners to Him)]** And, **[O mankind! Worship your Lord (Allaah) And, And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him.]** And, **[So, call you (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) and the believers) upon (or invoke) Allaah making (your) worship pure for Him (Alone) (by worshipping none but Him and by doing religious deeds sincerely for Allaah's sake only and not to show off and not to set up rivals with Him in worship), however much the disbelievers (in the Oneness of Allaah) may hate (it).]** All these and many other Ayahs prove the necessity of seeking Allaah Alone with worship and discarding all other than Him .

The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said, **Allaah's due right on His Slaves is to worship Him Alone without associating anything with Him, whereas the Slaves' right on Allaah is that He shall never torture those who do not associate others with Him.** When Allaah's Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) was asked about Islaam, he (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said, **Islaam is to testify that there is none worthy of worship but Allaah and that Muhammad is Allaah's Messenger, perform Salaah (prayer), pay Zakaah (obligatory charity), observe Hajj (pilgrimage) to al-Bayt (the House: another name for the Ka`bah), if you can afford doing so.** When He

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(صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) was asked about 'Eemaan (faith) he (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said, **'Eemaan is to have a firm faith in Allaah, His Angels, His Books, His Prophets, and the Day of Judgment, and to believe in the Divine Predestination whether good or bad.** When He (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) was asked about Ihsaan (the perfection of Faith), he (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said, **Ihsaan is to worship Allaah as if you are seeing Him, for if you do not see Him, verily, He sees you.**

These matters are requested from all, men and women. One should sincerely testify that no one has the right to be worshiped but Allaah and that Allaah is the Only True God, Who has no partner (عزوجل). Accordingly, a Muslim intends none but Allaah with his supplication, Salaah (Prayer), Sawm (Fast), and other acts of worship.

The declaration that Muhammad is Allaah's Messenger requires that mankind, males or females, testify that Muhammad ibn `Abdullah ibn `Abdul-Muttalib is Allaah's Messenger who was sent to jinn and mankind, Arabs and non-Arabs, males and females, the poor and the rich, and the rulers and the ruled. Moreover, they are asked to obey this Messenger and have faith in him. Allaah chose our Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) from the best tribe and the best country, namely Makkah al-Mukarramah and revealed the best religion to him, i.e. Islaam. Therefore, jinn and mankind should believe in him, abide by his orders, and believe that he is the last Prophet and there is no prophet after him. Allaah (سبحانه) says in His Glorious Book, **[Say (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)): "O mankind! Verily, I am sent to you all as the Messenger of Allaah]**

Allaah also says, **[And We have not sent you (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)) except as a giver of glad tidings and a warner to all mankind]** And, **[And We have sent you (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)): not but as a mercy for the 'Alameen (mankind, jinn and all that exists).]** Prophet Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) is a mercy for all the worlds and the Messenger of Allaah to jinn and mankind who should believe in and trust him, abide by his commands and prohibitions, act upon his Sharee'ah (revealed law) and testify that he is the last of the Prophets (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ). Allaah (سبحانه) says, **[Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allaah and the last (end) of the Prophets.]**

All Muslims have to offer the Five Obligatory Daily Prayers; Dhuhr (Noon) Prayer, `Asr (Afternoon) Prayer, Maghrib (Sunset) Prayer, `Ishaa' (Night) Prayer, and Fajr (Dawn) Prayer at their due times. Similarly, they have to pay Zakaah of their properties, offer Sawm of the month of Ramadhaan every year, and perform Hajj to al-Bayt-ul-Haram (the Sacred House, another name for the Ka'bah) if they are able to do so. In addition, all people must believe in Allaah, His Angels, His Messengers, the Last Day, and the Divine Decree. Belief in the Last Day implies believing in Resurrection after death, Reward and Punishment after death, Reckoning, Paradise and Hell. Belief in the Divine Decree is to have firm faith that Allaah decrees, knows, counts, and records all things and that Allaah wrote and determined the lifetimes, sustenance, and acts of His Creatures. Consequently, we should act upon what He

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legislated for us and avoid what he prohibited on us. Indeed, everyone will find easy what he is predestined to carry out.

Perfecting faith is accomplished when you worship Allaah as if you see Him and that if you do not see Him, He sees you. This is the degree of Ihsaan, which implies offering acts of worship as if one sees Allaah, so that one would offer any act of worship with utmost perfection and sincerity for if he/she does not see Allaah, verily, Allaah sees him/her. Moreover, one should worship Allaah on the basis that He sees and watches him and knows one's condition. A true Muslim fulfils Allaah's Right upon him perfectly and truthfully in the best way. One should take care of this. Once again, we stress the fact that the religion was revealed to all humankind and jinn to act accordingly; worship Allaah Alone and continue offering the pillars of Islaam, namely the declaration that no one has the right to be worshiped except Allaah and that Muhammad is Allaah's Messenger, offering Salaah, paying Zakaah, observing Sawm of Ramadhaan, and performing Hajj to Allaah's Sacred House if one can afford it. Likewise, they must have firm faith in Allaah, His Angels, His Books, His Messengers, the Last Day, and the Divine Decree whether good or bad. It is narrated in the two Saheeh (authentic) books of Hadeeth⁴ on the authority of Ibn `Umar (رضي الله عنهما)⁵ that Allaah's Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said, **Islaam is based on five pillars: the declaration that there is no one worthy of worship but Allaah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah; offering Salaah; giving Zakaah; Sawm of Ramadhaan; performing Hajj to al-Bayt (the House: another name for the Ka`bah).** The following Ayah highlights this matter and stresses that worship is a due right on all: **[The believers, men and women, are Auliya' (helpers, supporters, friends, protectors) of one another; they enjoin (on the people) al-Ma'roof (i.e. Islaamic Monotheism and all that Islaam orders one to do), and forbid (people) from al-Munkar (i.e. polytheism and disbelief of all kinds, and all that Islaam has forbidden); they perform as-Salaat (Iqaamat-as-Salaat), and give the Zakaat, and obey Allaah and His Messenger. Allaah will have His Mercy on them. Surely Allaah is All-Mighty, All-Wise.]**

Allaah (سبحانه) deemed them all as partners concerning loyalty amongst them and love for the sake of Allaah, enjoining good, forbidding evil, performing Salaah, giving Zakaah and obeying Allaah and His Messenger in everything. Allaah (سبحانه) says, **[Whoever works righteousness - whether male or female - while he (or she) is a true believer (of Islaamic Monotheism) verily, to him We will give a good life (in this world with respect, contentment and lawful provision), and We shall pay them certainly a reward in proportion to the best of what they used to do (i.e. Paradise in the Hereafter).]** He (عز وجل) included all men and women in this Ayah to show that the matter is general for all of them. He (سبحانه) says, **[It will not be in accordance with your desires (Muslims), nor those of the people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians), whosoever works evil, will have the**

⁴ i.e. al-Bukhaaree and Muslim

⁵ (رضي الله عنهما) (rad iyallaahu 'anhumaa) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with them both

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recompense thereof, and he will not find any protector or helper besides Allaah. And whoever does righteous good deeds, male or female, and is a (true) believer [in the Oneness of Allaah (Muslim)], such will enter Paradise and not the least injustice, even to the size of a speck on the back of a date-stone, will be done to them.] Allaah (سبحانه) indicates that whoever does evil deeds, whether man or woman, will be punished for it and whoever does good deeds, whether man or woman, observing faith, truthfulness, and sincerity, his/her reward is Paradise, honour and happiness. Allaah says, **[Verily, the Muslims (those who submit to Allaah in Islaam) men and women, the believers men and women (who believe in Islaamic Monotheism), the men and the women who are obedient (to Allaah), the men and women who are truthful (in their speech and deeds), the men and the women who are patient (in performing all the duties which Allaah has ordered and in abstaining from all that Allaah has forbidden), the men and the women who are humble (before their Lord - Allaah), the men and the women who give Sadaqaat (i.e. Zakaat, and alms), the men and the women who observe Sawm (fast) (the obligatory fasting during the month of Ramadhaan, and the optional Nawaafil fasting), the men and the women who guard their chastity (from illegal sexual acts) and the men and the women who remember Allaah much with their hearts and tongues Allaah has prepared for them forgiveness and a great reward (i.e. Paradise).]** According to the Ayah, Allaah (سبحانه) addressed both men and women with this. This must be known by certainty and accordingly every believer, man or woman, should strive to fulfil his or her duties for they will be asked about this. Allaah (سبحانه) says, **[So, by your Lord (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)), We shall certainly call all of them to account. For all that they used to do.]** In fact, everyone is responsible for the Right of Allaah and other relevant rights to the father, mother, wife, descendents, neighbours, and others. We should fulfil these rights, learn the religion, and be aware of the Ruling of Allaah on everything.

In addition, we should contemplate the Glorious Qur'aan, for it is revealed for the guidance of the jinn and mankind. Therefore, we should act upon it and acquire the manners that it calls for and beware of the vices which it forbids. This Book is the Revelation of Allaah, containing guidance and light and Allaah revealed it for people to observe its teachings and instructions. The Glorious Qur'aan, indeed, is the Strong Rope of Allaah and His Straight Path revealed to His Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) to act upon, not to just utter. Allaah (سبحانه) says, **[And this is a blessed Book (the Qur'aan) which We have sent down, so follow it and fear Allaah (i.e. do not disobey His Orders), that you may receive mercy (i.e. be saved from the torment of Hell).]** He (سبحانه) makes mercy dependent on following the teachings of the Glorious Qur'aan. Allaah (سبحانه) says, **[[Say (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)) to these idolaters (pagan Arabs) of your folk:] Follow what has been sent down unto you from your Lord (the Qur'aan and Prophet Muhammad's Sunnah), and follow not any Auliya' (protectors and helpers who order you to associate partners in worship with Allaah), besides Him (Allaah). Little do you remember!]** Allaah also says, **[(This is) a Book (the Qur'aan) which We have sent down to you, full of blessings, that they may ponder over its**

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Verses, and that men of understanding may remember. Allaah also says, Verily, this Qur'aan guides to that which is most just and right]. He also says, [Say: "It is for those who believe, a guide and a healing."]. The Qur'aan includes guidance and light and it is Allaah's Straight Path for all people. Consequently, they should rule according to, adhere to, and ponder on it. Allaah says in His Glorious Book, [Do they not then think deeply in the Qur'aan, or are their hearts locked up (from understanding it)?] This Ayah indicates that it is necessary to ponder it and to beware of turning away from it.

Similarly, we should adhere to the Sunnah of the Prophet (ﷺ), which includes his sayings, acts, and approvals. All people, men and women should follow the Sunnah. Allaah (عز وجل) says, [And obey Allaah and the Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ)] that you may obtain mercy.] Obeying the Prophet (ﷺ) is nothing but following his Sunnah which is proved to be authentic. Allaah says, [He who obeys the Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ)], has indeed obeyed Allaah] Allaah also says, [And whatsoever the Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ) gives you, take it; and whatsoever he forbids you, abstain (from it).] He also says, [O you who believe! Obey Allaah and obey the Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ)], and those of you (Muslims) who are in authority. (And) if you differ in anything amongst yourselves, refer it to Allaah and His Messenger (ﷺ), if you believe in Allaah and in the Last Day. That is better and more suitable for final determination.] The Ayah orders Muslims to resort to Allaah (i.e. the Qur'aan) and the Messenger (ﷺ) during his life and to his Sunnah after his death. Allaah (سبحانه) says, [And let those who oppose the Messenger's (Muhammad ﷺ) commandment (i.e. his Sunnah - legal ways, orders, acts of worship, statements) (among the sects) beware, lest some Fitnah (disbelief, trials, afflictions, earthquakes, killing, overpowered by a tyrant) should befall them or a painful torment be inflicted on them.]

Accordingly, we should glorify the Sunnah of the Prophet (ﷺ), adhere to it, rule by it, and act according to it, for it is the second source of Sharee'ah. It also explains the Qur'aan and illustrates what is not known of it. Addressing His Prophet, in Soorah-an-Nahl, Allaah says, [And We have also sent down unto you (O Muhammad ﷺ) the Dhikr [reminder and the advice (i.e. the Qur'aan)], that you may explain clearly to men what is sent down to them, and that they may give thought.] The Ayah states that Allaah revealed the Dhikr, which is the Qur'aan, to His Messenger to show people the rulings of their religion from the Book of Allaah and the Sunnah of His Messenger (ﷺ).

Accordingly, we should glorify the Book of our Lord and the Sunnah of our Prophet (ﷺ), act upon them in everything and avoid contradicting them. Allaah says, [Say: "Obey Allaah and obey the Messenger, but if you turn away, he (Messenger Muhammad ﷺ) is only responsible for the duty placed on him (i.e. to convey Allaah's Message) and you for that placed on you. If you obey him, you shall be on the

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right guidance. The Messenger's duty is only to convey (the message) in a clear way (i.e. to preach in a plain way)."]

It is important for all to know that the Commands of Allaah (سبحانه) are for both men and women except what was specified with proof. The Book of Allaah and the Sunnah of the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) mentioned certain rulings that are connected with men only and other rulings that are connected with women only for a great Divine Wisdom. We should act upon these rulings, approve of them and be satisfied and content with the Rule of Allaah, for He is the Most Just of the judges and He knows well the conditions of His Slaves. There is no adjuster to His Rule or repeller to His Decree. Indeed, He knows best what sets right His Slaves. Thus, a man is the protector and maintainer of a woman. Indeed, he is responsible for providing financial support for his wife, offspring, and undertaking their affairs. Allaah (سبحانه) says, **[Men are the protectors and maintainers of women, because Allaah has made one of them to excel the other, and because they spend (to support them) from their means.]**

A man should undertake the matters of his wife and provide her with expenditure, observing good companionship and pleasant words and deeds. Allaah says, **[...and live with them honourably.]** He also says, **[And they (women) have rights (over their husbands as regards living expenses) similar (to those of their husbands) over them (as regards obedience and respect) according to what is reasonable, but men have a degree (of responsibility) over them.]** Men are responsible for sustaining women through providing them with expenses, fulfilling their rights, dealing with them in a good and pleasant way, and undertaking their marital interests while women are responsible for taking care of the matters of the house and the offspring and fulfilling the rights of their husbands.

Moreover, among the duties of men is to offer Salaah in the Masjid (mosque) and respond to Adhaan (the call to Salaah). The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said, **[Whoever hears the call (Adhaan) and he does not come (to offer the due Salaah), then there is no valid Salaah for him except with an excuse.]** As for women, they are not required to offer Salaah in the Masjid. They should offer it in their houses, for it is better for them, because women are `Awrah (i.e. their entire body must be covered and protected from looks). Moreover, some dangers may result from their coming out. Allaah legislated for them to offer Salaah in their houses, not in the Masjid. However, there is no wrong if they come to the Masjid with the condition of being veiled, dressed modestly, and observing the etiquette of Sharee'ah (Islaamic law). In spite of fulfilling this, women should know that offering Salaah in their houses is better for them than offering it in the Masjid, according to what is authentically reported from the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) in this regard.

Also, among the issues which are limited to men and not women is Jihaad (fighting in the Cause of Allaah). Men are legally required to fight enemies and carry weapons while women

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are not responsible for any of that. ‘Aa.ishah⁶ (رضى الله عنها)⁷ said, "O Allaah's Messenger, we consider Jihaad as the best deed. Should we not fight for Allaah's Cause?" He said, "You are commanded with a (kind of) Jihaad which includes no fighting, namely Hajj and ‘Umrah (lesser Pilgrimage)." Women are not asked to carry out Jihaad, which involves fighting with the body and weapons, for they are too weak to do so and they are attractive to men and this may result in grave troubles. Jihaad by the self is for men, not for women, whereas Jihaad by money is for all, men and women according to the most authentic of the scholars' two main views and the generality of proofs. Allaah (سبحانه) says, [March forth, whether you are light (being healthy, young and wealthy) or heavy (being ill, old and poor), and strive hard with your wealth and your lives in the Cause of Allaah.] And, [O you who believe! Shall I guide you to a trade that will save you from a painful torment? That you believe in Allaah and His Messenger (Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم)) and that you strive hard and fight in the Cause of Allaah with your wealth and your lives: that will be better for you, if you but know!] The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said, "Fight the polytheists by your property, persons, and tongues." There are many Ayahs and Hadeeths to this effect that are general for men and women except for physical Jihaad, because of the previous Hadeeth narrated by ‘Aa.ishah (رضي الله عنه).

⁶ Umm-al-Mumineen ‘Aa.ishah, the Mother of The Believers (رضى الله عنها)

⁷ (رضى الله عنها) (rad iyallaahu `anhaa) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with her