

Is it sufficient to pronounce the Shahahdah?

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: Is it sufficient to pronounce the first Pillar of Islaam, that is the Shahahdah (Testimony of Faith): “La ilaha illaallaah, Muhammad Rasoolallaah (There is no God worthy of worship but Allaah, Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah),” or there are other tenets that must be fulfilled in order to complete one’s embrace of Islaam?

Shaykh Bin Baaz (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ)¹: If a non-Muslim testifies that there is no God worthy of worship but Allaah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah out of belief and Yaqeen (certainty), and awareness of the meaning, and acts according to this, they have entered Islaam. The person should then be asked to offer Salaah (Prayer) and to fulfil the other rules of Islaam. When the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)² sent Mu’adh (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ)³ to Yemen, he (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said to him, **Invite them to testify that there is no one worthy of worship but Allaah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah. If they obey you in that, inform them that Allaah has enjoined on them five prayers (to be offered) in every day and night. If they obey you in that, inform them that Allaah has enjoined on them Sadaqah (i.e. Obligatory charity) to be taken from the rich among them and given to the poor among them.**⁴ The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) ordered that they should be directed to perform Salaah and give Zakaah (obligatory charity) after they declare Tawheed (Oneness of Allaah) and ‘Eemaan (faith) in the Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ). If a non-Muslim does so, they take the ruling of Muslims. They should then be asked to offer Salaah and observe the other religious principles. If they refrain from doing them, they will fall under other rulings, such as if they abandon Salaah; the ruler must ask such a person to repent; otherwise, they will be subject to capital punishment. The same applies to the rest of the rulings of Islaam, according to which they should be dealt with as they deserve.

¹ (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

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

³ (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ) (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with him

⁴ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree, Saheeh Muslim, at-Tirmidhee, an-Nisaa’ee, Aboo Daawood, Ibn Maajah, Musnad Ahmad and ad-Daarimee