

## Correct `Aqeedah and its Contrast

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

All praise be to Allaah Alone, and peace and blessings be upon the Last of the Prophets.

Since sound `Aqeedah (creed) is the main origin of Islaam and the basis of the religion, I found it suitable to make it the topic of this lecture. It is well established by textual proofs from the Qur'aan and the Sunnah that the actions and words of a human are only valid and accepted when they are based on sound `Aqeedah. If the `Aqeedah is not sound, all actions and words are void. Allaah (Exalted be He) says: [**And whosoever disbelieves in Faith [i.e. in the Oneness of Allaah and in all the other Articles of Faith i.e. His (Allaah's) Angels, His Holy Books, His Messengers, the Day of Resurrection and Al-Qadar (Divine Preordainments)], then fruitless is his work; and in the Hereafter he will be among the losers.**]<sup>1</sup> Allaah (Exalted be He) also says: [**And indeed it has been revealed to you (O Muhammad ﷺ), as it was to those (Allaah's Messengers) before you: "If you join others in worship with Allaah, (then) surely (all) your deeds will be in vain, and you will certainly be among the losers."**]<sup>2</sup>

There are numerous Ayahs (Qur'aanic verses) on this meaning. The clear Book of Allaah and the Sunnah of the Prophet (peace be upon him) indicate that sound `Aqeedah is to believe in Allaah, His angels, His (Divine) Books, His Messengers, the Hereafter, and in Qadr (Divine Decree), whether good or bad. These six matters are the fundamental bases of `Aqeedah with which the Book of Allaah was revealed and with which his Messenger Muhammad (peace be upon him) was sent. From belief in these bases stems belief in all other matters of Ghayb (the Unseen) that Allaah and His Messenger informed us about and, therefore, we must believe them to be true. There are so many proofs in the Book of Allaah and the Sunnah of the Prophet (peace be upon him) emphasising these six bases, such as the Words of Allaah (Exalted be He): [**It is not Al-Birr (piety, righteousness, and each and every act of obedience to Allaah, etc.) that you turn your faces towards east and (or) west (in prayers); but Al-Birr is (the quality of) the one who believes in Allaah, the Last Day, the Angels, the Book, the Prophets.**]<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Soorah Maa'idah [5:5]

<sup>2</sup> Soorah al-Zumar [39:65]

<sup>3</sup> Soorah al-Baqarah [2:177]

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Allaah (Glorified be He) also says: **[The Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ) believes in what has been sent down to him from his Lord, and (so do) the believers. Each one believes in Allaah, His Angels, His Books, and His Messengers. (They say), "We make no distinction between one another of His Messengers."]**<sup>4</sup> And: **[O you who believe! Believe in Allaah, and His Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ), and the Book (the Qur'aan) which He has sent down to His Messenger, and the Scripture which He sent down to those before (him); and whosoever disbelieves in Allaah, His Angels, His Books, His Messengers, and the Last Day, then indeed he has strayed far away.]**<sup>5</sup> And: **[Know you not that Allaah knows all that is in the heaven and on the earth? Verily, it is (all) in the Book (Al-Lauh-al-Mahfouz). Verily that is easy for Allaah.]**<sup>6</sup>

As for the authentic Hadeeths proving these bases, they are numerous. For example, the famous Saheeh (authentic) Hadeeth which is related by Muslim in his Saheeh from the Hadeeth of Amir Al-Mu'mineen (Commander of the Believers), `Umar ibn Al-Khattaab (may Allaah be pleased with him), who said: **Jibreel (Gabriel, peace be upon him) asked the Prophet (peace be upon him) about 'Eemaan (faith), and he replied, 'Eemaan is to believe in Allaah, His angels, His Books, His Messengers, and the Last Day; and that you believe in predestination, both the good and bad thereof.**<sup>7</sup> It is upon these matters that other obligations of 'Eemaan that a Muslim must believe in follow regarding the rights owed to Allaah, the Last Day, and other matters related to Ghayb.

Believing in Allaah is to believe that He is the True God Who is worthy of worship without associating anything with Him, because He is the Creator of all creatures, Who is Gracious and Kind to them, provides for them and knows what they conceal and what they declare. He is the Able to reward the good doers and to punish the wrong doers. For this worship, Allaah has created both mankind and Jinn (creatures created from fire) and commanded them to adhere to it, saying: **[And I (Allaah) created not the jinn and mankind except that they should worship Me (Alone). I seek not any provision from them (i.e. provision for themselves or for My creatures) nor do I ask that they should feed Me (i.e. feed themselves or My creatures). Verily, Allaah is the All-Provider, Owner of Power, the Most Strong.]**<sup>8</sup> Allaah (Exalted be He) 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). Who has made the earth a resting place for you, and the sky as a canopy, and sent down water (rain) from the sky and brought forth therewith fruits as a provision for you.**

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<sup>4</sup> Soorah al-Baqarah [2:285]

<sup>5</sup> Soorah al-Nisaa [4:136]

<sup>6</sup> Soorah al-Hajj [22:70]

<sup>7</sup> Related by Al-Bukhaaree and Muslim with a slight difference in the narration from the way of Aboo Hurayrah

<sup>8</sup> Soorah al-Dhariyaat [51:56-58]

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**Then do not set up rivals unto Allaah (in worship) while you know (that He Alone has the right to be worshipped).]**<sup>9</sup>

Allaah has sent the Messengers and revealed the Divine Books to explain this truth, call people to it and warn people against what contradicts it. Allaah (Glorified be He) says: **[And verily, We have sent among every Ummah (community, nation) a Messenger (proclaiming): "Worship Allaah (Alone), and avoid (or keep away from) Taghoot (all false deities i.e. do not worship Taghoot besides Allaah)."]**<sup>10</sup> Allaah (Exalted be He) also says: **[And We did not send any Messenger before you (O Muhammad ﷺ) but We revealed to him (saying): Laa ilaaha illa Ana [none has the right to be worshipped but I (Allaah)], so worship Me (Alone and none else)."]**<sup>11</sup> And: **[(This is) a Book, the Verses whereof are perfected (in every sphere of knowledge), and then explained in detail from One (Allaah), Who is All-Wise, Well-Acquainted (with all things). (Saying) worship none but Allaah. Verily, I (Muhammad ﷺ) am unto you from Him a warner and a bringer of glad tidings.]**<sup>12</sup> The essence of this worship is to dedicate all acts of worship to Allaah Alone, such as supplication, fear, hope, Salaah (Prayer), Sawm (Fasting), slaughtering sacrificial animals, vowing as well as other kinds of worship, while feeling submissive, hopeful and fearful of Allaah, along with complete love to Him and humility before His Greatness. Most Ayahs were revealed for the sake of this great principle. Allaah (Exalted be He) says: **[So worship Allaah (Alone) by doing religious deeds sincerely for Allaah's sake only. Surely the religion (i.e. the worship and the obedience) is for Allaah only.]**<sup>13</sup> And: **[And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him.]**<sup>14</sup> And: **[So, call you (O Muhammad ﷺ 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).]**<sup>15</sup> It is related in Saheeh Al-Bukhaaree and Saheeh Muslim on the authority of Mu`adh (may Allaah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: **The Right of Allaah over His slaves is that they should worship Him and not associate anything with Him.**

One of the bases of 'Eemaan is to believe in the Five Pillars of Islaam that Allaah has ordained and enjoined upon His servants, which are: The testimony that none has the right to be worshipped alone but Allaah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah, performance of Salaah (Prayers), paying Zakaah (obligatory charity), fasting during

<sup>9</sup> Soorah al-Baqarah [2:21-22]

<sup>10</sup> Soorah al-Nahl [16:36]

<sup>11</sup> Soorah al-Ambeeyaa [21:25]

<sup>12</sup> Soorah al-Hood [11:1-2]

<sup>13</sup> Soorah al-Zumar [39:2-3]

<sup>14</sup> Soorah al-Isra [17:23]

<sup>15</sup> Soorah Ghafir [40:14]

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Ramadhaan and performing Hajj (pilgrimage) to the sacred House of Allaah for those who have the ability to perform it,

in addition to other obligatory acts which are laid down by the Sharee'ah (Islaamic law). The most important pillar is the testimony that none has the right to be worshipped alone but Allaah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah. The testimony that none has the right to be worshipped alone but Allaah demands that we sincerely worship Allaah Alone and negate any kind of worship to other than Him. This is the meaning of " none has the right to be worshipped alone but Allaah." It means there is no one worthy of worship except Allaah. Anyone that is worshiped other than Allaah, such as humans, kings, Jinn or others, they are all worshiped falsely because the Only One Who is worthy of worship is Allaah Alone. Allaah (Exalted be He) says: **[That is because Allaah — He is the Truth (the only True God of all that exists, Who has no partners or rivals with Him), and what they (the polytheists) invoke besides Him, it is Baatil (falsehood).]**<sup>16</sup> We have mentioned earlier that Allaah (Glorified be He) created mankind and Jinn for this reason and commanded them to worship Him and sent messengers and revealed Divine Books to teach this truth. Please contemplate this well in order to know the deep ignorance that many Muslims have fallen into by neglecting this pillar to the extent that they worship others along with Allaah and give His Exclusive Right to be worshipped to others. Allaah is the One sought for help.

One of the bases of 'Eemaan in Allaah is to believe that He is the Creator of the universe, Who manages all things by His Knowledge and Power, as He wills. He is the Master of this world and the Hereafter, and the Lord of all existence. There is no Creator or Lord except Him. He sent His messengers and revealed the Divine Books to guide His servants and call them to salvation and uprightness in this life and the next. He has no partner in any of this, Allaah (Exalted be He) says: **[Allaah is the Creator of all things, and He is the Wakeel (Trustee, Disposer of affairs, Guardian) over all things.]**<sup>17</sup> And: **[Indeed your Lord is Allaah, Who created the heavens and the earth in Six Days, and then He rose over (Istawaa) the Throne (really in a manner that suits His Majesty). He brings the night as a cover over the day, seeking it rapidly, and (He created) the sun, the moon, the stars subjected to His Command. Surely, His is the Creation and Commandment. Blessed is Allaah, the Lord of the 'Alameen (mankind, jinn and all that exists)!]**<sup>18</sup>

Also, one of the bases of 'Eemaan is to believe in the Perfectly Magnificent Names of Allaah and His Sublime Attributes that are stated in His Glorious Book and are authentically reported from the Prophet (peace be upon him) without Tahreef (distortion of the meaning), Ta`teel (negation of the meaning or function of Allaah's Attributes), Takyeef (descriptive designation of Allaah's Attributes) or Tamtheel (likening Allaah's Attributes to those of His

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<sup>16</sup> Soorah al-Hajj [22:62]

<sup>17</sup> Soorah al-Zumar [39:62]

<sup>18</sup> Soorah al-A'raaf [7:54]

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creation). They must be acknowledged without Takyeef along with believing in their great meanings, which constitute the Attributes of Allaah (Glorified and Exalted be He). We must describe Him with these attributes, as befits His Glory, without likening Him to any of His creatures. Allaah (Exalted be He) says: **[There is nothing like Him; and He is the All-Hearer, the All-Seer.]**<sup>19</sup> And: **[So put not forward similitudes for Allaah (as there is nothing similar to Him, nor He resembles anything). Truly! Allaah knows and you know not.]**<sup>20</sup> This is the `Aqeedah of Ahl-ul-Sunnah wal-Jama`ah (adherents to the Sunnah and the Muslim mainstream) who are mainly the Sahaabah (Companions of the Prophet) and those who righteously follow them. It is transmitted by Imaam Aboo Al-Hasan Al-Ash'aree (may Allaah be merciful to him) in His Book Al-Maqalat from the scholars of Hadeeth and Ahl-ul-Sunnah and by other scholars and religious figures.

Al-Awza`y (may Allaah be merciful to him) reported that Al-Zuhry and Makhul were asked about Ayat-ul-Sifat (Qur'aanic verses including Allaah's Attributes), and they replied: "Believe in them as they are stated." Al-Waleed ibn Muslim (may Allaah be merciful to him) reported that Maalik, Al-Awza`y, Al-Layth ibn Sa`d and Sufyaan Al-Thawry (may Allaah be merciful to them) were asked about Allaah's Attributes, and they all said: "Believe in them as they are stated without Takyeef." Al-Awza`y (may Allaah be merciful to him) said: "When there were many Tabi`oon (Followers, the generation after the Companions of the Prophet) among us, we used to say: Allaah (Exalted be He) is on His Throne, and we believe in the Hadeeths of Attributes which were reported in the Sunnah." When Rabi`ah ibn Aboo `Abdul-Rahmaan, the teacher of Imaam Maalik (may Allaah be merciful to them) was asked about Istawaa', he said: "Istawaa' (Allaah's rising over the Throne in a manner that befits Him) is not unknown and Kayf (the way it happened) is not perceived. Allaah sent down the Message, which the Messenger clearly conveyed, and we have to believe in it. When Imaam Maalik (may Allaah be merciful to him) was asked about this, he said: "Istawaa' is well known, Kayf is unknown, believing in it is obligatory, and asking about it is Bid`ah (innovation in religion)." Then he said to the questioner: "I think you are an evil person." Then he commanded that he should be brought out. The same meaning was reported from Um Salamah, the Mother of the Believers (may Allaah be pleased with her). Imaam Aboo `Abdul-Rahmaan `Abdullah ibn Al-Mubarak (may Allaah be merciful to him) said: "We believe that our Lord (Glorified be He) is above His heavens and over His Throne and creation." The words of the Imaams in this regard are numerous and cannot be all mentioned in this lecture. Anyone who wants to read about this should refer to the statements of Ahl-ul-Sunnah in this regard, such as the book "Sunnah" by `Abdullah ibn Imaam Ahmad, and "Tawheed" (Monotheism) by Imaam Muhammad ibn Khuzaymah, and the book "Sunnah" by Aboo Al-Qasim Al-Lalika'y Al-Tabaree, and the book "Sunnah" by Aboo Bakr ibn Aboo `Asim, and the answer of the Shaykh of Islaam Ibn Taymeeyah to the people of Hamah, which was a great and beneficial answer in which he explained the

<sup>19</sup> Soorah al-Shuraa [42:11]

<sup>20</sup> Soorah al-Nahl [16:74]

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`Aqeedah of Ahl-ul-Sunnah and reported many of their words and textual and rational proofs on the validity of the view of Ahl-ul-Sunnah and the invalidity of the view of their opponents. There is also his thesis called "Al-Tadmuriyyah" in which he elaborated and explained the `Aqeedah of Ahl-ul-Sunnah supported by the textual and rational evidence, and refuted the pleas of the opponents in order to show the truth and refute error to people of knowledge who search this matter out of good intention and with a desire for the truth. All those who disagreed with Ahl-ul-Sunnah in what they believe concerning the Names and Attributes of Allaah contradicted the textual and rational evidence. Open contradiction in what they prove or negate is evident.