

LA ILAHA ILLA LLAHU, MUHAMMADU RASULU LLAHI



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INTRODUCTION

In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.

All praises and gratitude belong and return to Him, because He has revealed Himself to creations, from behind different veils. Neither was nor can anything or anyone become without creation. And no love or care can surpass to create, to make Himself known and to guide to prosperity.

This makes ignorance a most unfortunate status because it amounts to wretchedness in what is necessary. This makes denial fool hardy since it does not affect the truth. This makes knowledge the path to reality.

What is right is therefore true and real. It is not and cannot be isolated or independent of what is absolutely and finally made available. And the source of the origin and destination of what is right, true, that is real, is and must remain the only and final reference.

As a result, the primary and continuous responsibility of man is to seek, by knowledge and discipline, submission to Allah (SWT). Any forms of this, will amount to praise and gratitude. This is the essence of creating us and our reality rests essentially on worshiping Allah.

All praise and gratitude be to Allah (SWT) who has favoured us with numerous messengers to the Seal and several scriptures to the Complete and Final Qur'an.

This material is an attempt to introduce the key and stepping stone to Imam, upon which every other thing and all things hang, to rest and prosper.

Utmost and the best blessings and peace be upon Muhammad (SAW) his family, companions and all of mankind and Jinn who constantly recited, recite or will

recite Fatiha and Submit to it, to their utmost. Praise and gratitude be to Allah (SWT) who has granted them the leadership of all creation by what is right, that is free.

This is the favour that ties up all favours that we can neither list nor deny.

Muhammad Saidu Jimada

LA ILAHA ILLA LLAHU, MUHAMMADU RASULU LLAHI

We are not the first generation on this planet earth. There is no one among us who is not from a parent. We are also very much in the know that our parents were begotten by other parents that are our grandparents. We also know of the application of the same to others. Indeed we know that some people live along with their great grandparents.

We are also not strangers to the word, creator, or the word, worship. The two are intimately related. And we know of people who live accordingly. They may be our parents. People related to us or not. They may be near or far. Indeed, they may be living in our times or have lived in other times.

We are also familiar with the different colours of this beliefs and worships. Some people worship numerous and different gods. Some even have gender forms of gods. This accounts for gods and goddesses. Some identify the god or gods in living things while some, in objects. Some in objects moulded or carved by them or others. Some, in objects that represents or are supposed images of the real person that had lived and died. Some in animals. And there are still others, who deny completely, any reality associated with this. Some still have limited association by holding that the reality does not matter and does not oblige anything, while others hold that it is an encompassing word for everything and everyone as against any independent identity.

The position of Islam is not a guessing one. It is one of clarification against ignorance, confusion or mischief. And it comes from the only and best source for right knowledge and guidance.

Verily, I am Allah:

There is no god but I:

So serve thou Me (only),
And establish regular prayer
For celebrating My praise.

(Qur'an 20: 14)

To make a difference of distinction there is God. This God is Allah. Allah is One. His instruction and entitlement is service, by worship, especially in the form of prayer, which is really, praising Him. This is all He has assigned to us.

The implication of this against what we find around is that, any claims and practices about and relating to worship, are accountable for by the adherents. The specific teaching of Islam is;

Say: He is Allah,
The One and Only.

(Qur'an 112: 1)

For the appreciation and understanding of any average person in health, physical, mental and emotional balance, the certificate of a doctor of philosophy in theology is not required to convey this simple and absolute truth. It is not a truth that requires argument to establish and no amount or form of dispute will change this right Truth or knowledge that Allah is One and Only.

To Him belongs the dominion
Of the Heavens and the Earth;
It is He Who gives
Life and Death; and He
Has Power over all things.

(Qur'an 57: 2)

It is a simple logical and sensible evidence that is available to crush any challenge of ignorance and mischief. In history, the king of the time of Ibrahim (AS) and Pharaoh of the time of Musa (AS) were the best examples of doubt, ignorance and mischief. They therefore symbolized arrogance. In the case of Ibrahim (AS), his king could neither claim nor do anything about the rising of the sun or the setting of the sun. His release of a prisoner is not the same as the giving of life by Allah. And sentencing a convict for execution is not a proof of having the power of death. It is not uncommon to watch a beloved dying, under the circumstance of best care by professionals. But Allah made Uzair (AS) an example to himself and was witnessed by his people at a later age. The youth of the cave and their dog is another. By the leave of Allah, Muhammad (SAW) split the moon. By the leave of Allah Isa (AS) raised a dead person to life. In the case of Pharaoh, he asked that a tower be constructed for him to meet the Lord of Musa (AS) in the heavens. This is because he was ignorant and was keen to know and meet. But it was a futile exercise. It was Isa (AS) who was taken to heaven by Allah Who owns, knows and has power to do so, against the appearance of the victim of his enemies. It was Allah (SWT) who favoured Muhammad (SAW) with a journey to Jerusalem and then to the heavens, beyond and witnessing the truthfulness of the real relationship between Islam upon which he stood, history and reality.

Allah, the Eternal, Absolute.

(Qur'an 112: 2)

He is the First

And the Last

The Evident

And the Immanent;

And He has full knowledge

Of all things.

(Qur'an 57: 3)

This exposure of Muhammad (SAW), the leader and seal of right knowledge and discipline is affirmative of the unique attributes of Allah (SWT). This oneness and oneliness of Allah and His attributes is absolutely without any companion.

He begetteth not,
Nor is He begotten.

(Qur'an 112: 3)

It is not even logical and sensible to conceptualize any reality before the first or after the last. This is why we can only give any levels of minuses the meaning of value of debt to real or full numbers or factors. So, how can a healthy and sound person associate any companionship with Him?

Say: "Praise be to Allah
Who begets no son,
And has no partner
In (His) dominion:
Nor (needs) He any
To protect Him from
humiliation:
Yea, magnify Him
For His greatness and glory!"

(Qur'an 17: 111)

This is why the best logic and sense can offer, beyond any last that can be conceptualized, is an open and free infinity.

And there is none

Like unto Him.

(Qur'an 112: 4)

He created every and all creations and is not like any one or all of them. A man reproduces himself through intimacy leading to birth. He cannot possibly produce anything that is absolutely and totally unlike himself. A hardware operates like it is designed to function. A software is not different. In fact it can have a cultural trait. This is why the inbuilt dictionary in a phone by an unbeliever may not assuredly have the name Allah or Qur'an.

This does not apply to Allah, even though out of His exceeding mercy, He has created us in His image and appointed us to be His vicegerent on earth. This is why when Ibrahim (AS) asked to know how Allah creates life, to strengthen his Iman, he was directed to cut birds into pieces and place their bunches on different rocks and call upon them to come forth by His leave. Ibrahim (AS) did so and they flew to him. Uzair (AS) wondered over recreation and Allah took his life and that of his donkey. When He returned his and his drink, there was no change in the taste. What his ride was returned and brayed, he recognized it as his. And when he returned home, the generation affirmed that he was of the past. When Musa (AS) sought to see Him, his vision of the mountain that reflected His light and turned into dust got him unconscious.

No vision can grasp Him,
But His grasp is over
All vision: He is
Above all comprehension,
Yet is acquainted with all things.

(Qur'an 6: 103)

Accordingly, Allah can be described with the best names or attributes. And this is from deductions of His image that we may reflect. For example, we can be generous to ourselves and to others. But Allah is most generous. Does He not provide rains and sunlight for our livelihood, irrespective of belief, misbelief and unbelief? What of vegetation? Are mineral resources different? What of skills? What generosity is comparable to this? Man can exercise enormous power both physically and by the application of knowledge. The ship is a good example, but who makes it to float or prevent it from sinking? This does not exempt knowledge. How did it take mankind to realize and admit that the earth is round or that the earth increases? These were easily and freely provided with the revelation of the Qur'an.

Allah! There is no god
But He! To Him belong
The Most Beautiful Names.

(Qur'an 20: 8)

Say: "Call upon Allah, or
Call upon Rahman:
By whatever name he call
Upon Him (it is well):
For to Him belong
The Most Beautiful Names.

(Qur'an 17: 110)

Allah is He, than Whom
There is no other god;
The Sovereign, the Holy One,
The Source of Peace
(and Perfection),

The Guardian of Faith
The Preserver of Safety,
The Exalted in Might,
The Irresistible, the Supreme:
Glory to Allah!
(High is He)
Above the partners
They attribute to Him.

(Qur'an 59: 23)

This is why the ignorant who refuses to seek for knowledge or is benefitted with the right knowledge and turns his back, will have no excuse. As for whoever denies knowledge for mischief, Allah is neither unaware nor unconcerned.

The most beautiful names
Belong to Allah;
So call on Him by them;
But shun such men as
Use profanity in His names;
For what they do, they will
Soon be requited.

(Qur'an 7: 180)

There is no god but He:
That is the witness of Allah,
His angels, and those endured
With knowledge, standing firm
On Justice. There is no god but He,
The Exalted in Power,
The Wise.

(Qur'an 3: 18)

The logical and sensible consequence to follow this right knowledge, this truth, is the discipline of appreciation, gratitude and submission or worship. This is necessarily the peculiar and absolute right of Allah alone. And He has not asked for more.

And they have been commanded
No more than this
To worship Allah,
Offering Him sincere devotion,
Being True (in faith);
To establish regular Prayer;
And to practice regular Charity;
And that is the Religion
Right and Straight.

(Qur'an 98: 5)

To Him belong all (creations)
In the heavens and on earth:
Even those who are in His
(very) Presence are not
Too proud to serve Him,
Nor are they (ever) weary
(Of His Service)
They celebrate His praises
Night and day, nor do they
Ever flag or intermit.

(Qur'an 21: 19 - 20)

Allah out of His profound mercy revealed Himself through His word for the knowledge of what is right against what is wrong. But in addition, He has blessed us with His Messenger who historically defined the path for simply following. And He did this in His unique and incomparable way.

It is He Who has sent
Among the Unlettered
A Messenger from among
Themselves, to rehearse
To them His Signs,
To sanctify them, and
To instruct them in Scripture
And wisdom - although
They had been, before
In manifest error.

(Qur'an 62: 2)

This assignment is a most serious burden and beyond any relationship. This is why the Prophet (SAW) addressed his beloved daughter and his fellow Meccans who cared to know that, he is in no position to protect anyone from Allah (SWT), if he fails in his belief and submission.

Muhammad is not
The father of any
Of your men, but (he is)
The Messenger of Allah,
And the seal of the prophets:
And Allah has full knowledge
Of all things.

(Qur'an 33: 40)

Apart from addressing believers on the status of Muhammad (SAW), Allah has addressed His Messenger too, on this subject. This states, between the lines, that, the affair of the worship of Allah is not that of Muhammad (SAW).

O Prophet! Truly We
Have sent thee as
A Witness, a Bearer
Of Glad Tidings,
And a Warner.

(Qur'an 33: 45)

For the benefit of the doubt or further clarity, the message of Islam that Muhammad (SAW) is sent with is also final and to the whole world. Thus, the right messages or scriptures that were bored by different previous messengers were for their nations and times.

It is He Who has sent
His Messenger with Guidance
And the Religion of Truth,
To proclaim it over
All religions: and enough
Is Allah for a Witness.

(Qur'an 48: 28)

Ye have indeed
In the Messenger of Allah
A beautiful pattern (of conduct)
For anyone whose hope is
In Allah and the Final Day.
And who engages much

In the praise of Allah.

(Qur'an 33: 21)

The right knowledge and discipline of Islam is therefore generously outlined in the Qur'an and the example of the livelihood of Muhammad (SAW). The door, the key and registration in Islam rests firmly on the declaration of total belief in Allah as the only One deserving worship, that Muhammad (SAW) is His Messenger as well as His Slave and submitting according to the teachings and examples of Muhammad (SAW).

That ye believe in Allah
And His Messenger, and that
Ye strive (your utmost)
In the cause of Allah,
With your property
And your persons:
That will be best for you
If ye but knew!

(Qur'an 61: 11)

And Muhammad (SAW), the best model, lived up to this. His beloved wife, to whom reference could be made for half of the religion, submitted that he was angry and loved only for the cause of Allah. Muhammad (SAW) did submit that his health, strength, wealth, worship, life and death were all for Allah. In prayer, he had quickly after leading a prayer, gone home to give out the piece of gold he had, in charity, because he remembered it while in prayer. He had similarly given out a piece of his dress because the design on it attracted his attention while in prayer. This leadership is consistent with the guidance of Allah (SWT) to Whom worship is due.

Say: If it be that your fathers,
Your sons, your brothers,
Your mates, or kindred;
The wealth that ye have gained;
The commerce in which ye fear
A decline; or the dwellings
In which ye delight –
Are dearer to you than Allah,
Or His Messenger, the striving
In His cause: - then wait
Until Allah brings about
His decision; and Allah
Guides not the rebellious.

(Qur'an 9: 24)

Allah is the head and the essence. Muhammad (SAW) is the leader in this course. The believers are the followers. And Allah has assured all, of safety and His pleasure.

All who obey Allah
And the Messenger
Are in the company
Of those on whom
Is the grace of Allah.

(Qur'an 4: 69)

O Messenger! Sufficient
Unto thee is Allah,
(Unto thee) and unto those
Who follow thee

Among the believers.

(Qur'an 8: 64)

Indeed Allah is above all possible estimations in His independence. A hadith qudsi narrated by Abu Dharr al-Ghifari reveals this.

From the Prophet (SAW) is that among the sayings he relates from his Lord is that He (SWT) said: "O My servants, I have forbidden oppression for Myself and have made it forbidden amongst you, so do not oppress one another. O My servants, all of you are astray except for those I have guided, so seek guidance of Me and I shall guide you. O My servants, all of you are hungry except for those I have fed, so seek food of Me and I shall feed you. O My servants, all of you are naked except for those I have clothed, so seek clothing of Me and I shall clothe you. O My servants, you sin by night and by day, and I forgive all sins, so seek forgiveness of Me and I shall forgive you. O My servants, you will not attain harming Me so as to harm Me, and will not attain benefitting Me so as to benefit Me. O My servants, were the first of you and the last of you, the human of you and the jinn of you to be as pious as the most pious heart of any one man of you, that would not increase My kingdom in anything. O My servants, were the first of you and the last of you, the human of you and the jinn of you to be as wicked as the most wicked heart of any one man of you, that would not decrease My kingdom in anything. O My servants, were the first of you and the last of you, the human of you and the jinn of you to rise up in one place and make a request of Me, and were I to give everyone what he requested, that would not decrease what I have, any more that a needle decreases the sea if put into it. O My servants, it is but your deeds that I reckon up for you and then recompense you for, so let him find good praise Allah and let him who finds other that blame no one but himself."

Thus, believers are undoubtedly on the footing that is strongest and assuring because of the absolute truth of the unity of Allah and our submission to Him.

Allah – there is no deity except Him, the Ever-Living, the Sustainer of (all) existence. Neither drowsiness overtakes Him nor sleep. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is it that can intercede with Him except by His permission? He knows what is (presently) before them and what will be after them, and they encompass not a thing of His knowledge except for what He wills. His *Kursi* extends over the heavens and the earth, and their preservation tires Him not. And He is the Most High, the Most Great. (Qur'an 2: 255)

Allah is the Light of the heavens and the earth. The example of His light is like a niche within which is a lamp, the lamp is within glass, the glass as if it were a pearly (white) star lit from (the oil of) a blessed olive tree, neither of the east nor of the west, whose oil would almost glow even if untouched by fire. Light upon light. Allah guides to His light whom He wills. And Allah presents examples for the people, and Allah is Knowing of all things. (Qur'an 24: 35)