

The creed of Ahl-ul-Sunnah wal-Jamaa'ah

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allaah the most Kind the most Merciful

In the Name of Allaah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful, praise be to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds! The best outcome will be for the righteous. Peace and blessing be upon His Servant, Messenger, Close Friend, His trustee to the matter of revelation, and our Prophet, Imaam, and master, Muhammad ibn `Abdullah, his family, his Companions, and those who follow his guidance until the Day of Judgment!

There is no doubt that Allaah (عزوجل)¹ created and ordered all creatures to worship him. He (عزوجل) says: **[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.]** He commanded His Servants to observe this worship and ensured their provisions as He (سبحانه)² says: **[And no moving (living) creature is there on earth but its provision is due from Allaah.]** He sent all Messengers to achieve this great purpose.

They are sent to invite and instruct people to worship Allaah and explain how to achieve it. He (سبحانه) says: **[And verily, We have sent among every Ummah (community, nation) a Messenger (proclaiming): "Worship Allaah (Alone), and avoid (or keep away from) Taaghoot (all false deities i.e. do not worship Taaghoot besides Allaah)."]** Thus, all messengers are sent to achieve one purpose; namely worshipping Allaah Alone without associating any partners with Him. He (سبحانه) says: **[And We did not send any Messenger before you (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)³) 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)."]**

In many locations in the Qur'aan, Allaah ordered His Servants to observe `Ibaadah (worship) for which they are created and the messengers are sent. In Soorah al-Baqarah, He (سبحانه)

¹ (عزوجل) (Azza wa Jaal) Glorified and Exalted be He

² (سبحانه) (Subhanahu) Exalted be He

³ (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

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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).]** In Soorah an-Nisaa', He says: **[Worship Allaah and join none with Him (in worship)]** He addressed the Children of Israaeel saying: **[And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him.]** In Soorah al-Bayinah, He says: **[And they were commanded not, but that they should worship Allaah, and worship none but Him Alone (abstaining from ascribing partners to Him), and perform as-Salaat (Iqaamat-as-Salaat) and give Zakaat]** And: **[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.]**

This is the `Ibaadah for which the creations were created and ordered to show and all the messengers were sent to show how to observe it. This `Ibaadah is detailed in Allaah's Book and in the Sunnah of His Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)⁴. Likewise, our Prophet Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), the last and best of the messengers, was sent to all people to invite them to worship Allaah and observe Tawheed (belief in the Oneness of Allaah) and sincerity. He (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) stayed in Makkah for thirteen years. During this period, he invited people to worship Allaah, observe Tawheed and shun worshipping anything else such as the idols, pagans, angels, prophets etc., other than Allaah. He adopted the saying: **[O people, say: "There is no one who has the right to be worshipped but Allaah," to prosper.]** Only a tiny minority of people responded actively while many people were arrogant toward obeying and following him. He then was ordered to migrate to Al-Madeenah to escape the harms caused by Mushrikeen (persons who associate others with Allaah in His Divinity or worship). Those people who followed what he brought and he migrated to and stayed in Al-Madeenah for ten years during which he invited people to obey Allaah and explained to them His Sharee'ah. Some of the Qur'aan was revealed in Makkah and some in Al-Madeenah. The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) explained the meanings of the Qur'aan to people.

He was granted two kinds of revelation: Qur'aan and Sunnah. **[By the star when it goes down (or vanishes).] [Your companion (Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)) has neither gone astray nor has erred.]** i.e., the Prophet **[Nor does he speak of (his own) desire.] [It is only a Revelation revealed.]** The Hadeeths of the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) and the teachings of Sharee'ah were revealed by Allaah. These components of Islaam were conveyed to the Sahabah [Companions of the Prophet (رضي الله عنهم)⁵] who in turn transmitted them to their Taabi`oon (Followers, the generation after the Companions of the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)). Still, this knowledge is transmitted from one generation to another and from one century to another by the people of knowledge who produce books elaborating on the principles of Da`wah (calling to Islaam) adopted by the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) and teachings of Allaah's Religion. The Muslim's `Aqeedah (creed), which is adopted by Ahl-ul-Sunnah wal-Jamaa'ah

⁴ (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

⁵ (رضي الله عنهم) (rad iyallahu 'anhum) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with them

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(adherents to the Sunnah and the Muslim mainstream), is what Allaah has shown in His Book, what His Messenger pointed out in his Sunnah and what the Sahabah received from their Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) and conveyed to people. This religion implies observing Tawheed and obedience to Allaah, following His Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) and abstaining from what he forbade as well as belief in all that Allaah and His Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) told. The `Aqeedah adopted by Ahl-ul-Sunnah wal-Jamaa'ah and Salaf (righteous predecessors) indicates belief in Allaah and His Messenger and in all what Allaah and His Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) had told us. It also necessitates acting upon it in words, deeds and creed out of love, submission and sincerity. Belief in Allaah and His Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) means belief in and obeying all that Allaah and His Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) had told us through words and deeds.

Every believer should follow the Sahabah and the good Salaf in acquiring these principles from Allaah's Book and the Sunnah of His Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ). He (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) explained the implications of Islaam, 'Eemaan and Ihsaan (the perfection of Faith) and pointed out Allaah's Obligations and Prohibitions through words and deeds.

According to Ahl-ul-Sunnah wal-Jamaa'ah, a Muslim should follow what Allaah and His Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) have told us and ordered us to do out of true faith, love, sincerity, desire and fear. They fulfil Allaah's Obligations, avoid His Prohibitions and observe His Limits without Riya' (showing-off), hypocrisy or seeking reputation. This kind of `Ibaadah is called by Allaah Islaam, 'Eemaan, Taqwaa (fear/wariness of offending Allaah) and guidance. He says: **[Truly, the religion with Allaah is Islaam.]**, **[...whereas there has surely come to them the Guidance from their Lord!]**, **["Truly! The Muttaqoon (the pious) will be amidst Gardens and water-springs (Paradise).]**, **[O mankind! Be dutiful to your Lord]**, **[O you who believe! Believe in Allaah, and His Messenger (Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ))]** And: **[Say (O Muslims), "We believe in Allaah and that which has been sent down to us"]** It implies 'Eemaan, Islaam, guidance, Taqwaa, righteousness, reform and integrity.

This is the religion with which Allaah sent His Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) and all the other messengers. This should be achieved by utterance with the tongue, acts with organs and belief with the heart out of love, desire, fear, sincerity and truthfulness. Belief in all that the Divine Books and messengers brought comes under the heading of belief in Allaah, His Angels, His Books, His Messengers, the Last Day and in the Predestination, its bad and good consequences. Allaah (عزوجل) says: **[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]** And: **[Say (O Muslims), "We believe in Allaah and that which has been sent down to us"]** He (سبحانه) also says: **[The Messenger (Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)) 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**

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say), "We make no distinction between one another of His Messengers"] And: [O you who believe! Believe in Allaah, and His Messenger (Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ))].

Islaam- according to the `Aqeedah of Ahi Al-Sunnah wal-Jamaa'aah- implies belief in Allaah by utterance, actions and creed. This belief includes what the Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) told Jibreel (عليه السلام)⁶ when the latter asked about Islaam, 'Eemaan and Ihsaan. He (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) pointed out the five pillars of Islaam, the six pillars of 'Eemaan and the meaning of Ihsaan saying: **Islaam implies testifying that there is none worthy of worship but Allaah and that Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) is the messenger of Allaah, performing Salaah i.e., prayers, giving Zakaah i.e., obligatory charity, fasting the month of Ramadhaan, and performing Hajj i.e., pilgrimage if you are solvent enough (to bear the expense of) the journey. He (the inquirer (عليه السلام)) said: Inform me about 'Eemaan (faith). He (the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)) replied: That you affirm your faith in Allaah, in His angels, in His Books, in His Prophets, in the Day of Judgment, and you affirm your faith in the Divine Decree about good and evil. He (the inquirer (عليه السلام)) again said: Inform me about al-Ihsaan (performance of good deeds). He (the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)) said: That you worship Allaah as if you are seeing Him, for though you don't see Him, He, verily, sees you.** The religion of Allaah implies the three elements mentioned above. Islaam is the apparent deeds which Allaah and His Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) ordered to be performed. It is called Islaam because it implies submission and subjection to Allaah. A Muslim observes Allaah's ordinances and avoids His Prohibitions out of submission and subjection to Allaah, which is the meaning of worshipping Allaah.

The `Ibaadah for which Allaah has created us is called Islaam (Allaah's Religion), 'Eemaan and guidance. The Prophet's (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) saying: **Islaam implies testifying that there is none worthy of worship but Allaah...** Is included in his saying of belief in Allaah.

⁶ (عليه السلام) ('alaihi-salaam) Peace be upon him