

Islaamic Sharee'ah and its benefits and humans' need for it

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allaah the most Kind the most Merciful

All praises be to Allaah. May peace and blessings be upon the Last Prophet, his family, and Companions!

Since delivering scientific lectures is one of the best means of clarifying facts, presenting the merits of the subject-matter of the lecture, and expanding discussions on it, I thought that the subject of my lecture for tonight should be: "Sharee'ah: Merits and Man's Need for It". I have chosen this subject for its great significance. It is well-known that studying the Islaamic Sharee'ah and relevant issues concerning its merits, benefits, and protection of servants, and every text concerning our need is indeed a great matter. In addition, our need for it is great. Understanding and paying attention to that issue is one of the most important matters. Being motivated by the importance of this subject, its significance, and our pressing need to understand it better and have more insight into it, I thought it should be the subject of my lecture. My dear brothers and sisters, my lecture has two aspects: **First:** Sharee'ah and its merits. **Second:** The human need for it. I will speak about the two matters, Insha'allaah.

First: The essence and merits of Sharee'ah: It is well-known for Muslims and those who have the least knowledge about the reality of the past ages that Allaah (عز وجل)¹ sent all Messengers (عليهم السلام)² with Islaam starting from Noah, the first Messenger, to the Last of them, Prophet Muhammad (عليه السلام). Our father Adam (عليه السلام)³ embraced Islaam and so did all the generations that came after him until the people of Noah fell into the abyss of Shirk (associating others with Allaah in His Divinity or worship). All people were all Muslims according to the narration of Ibn `Abbas (may Allaah be pleased with them both) but later Shirk spread among the people of Noah through worshipping the pious people Wadd, Suwaa', Yaghooth, Ya'uq, and Nasr. Allaah (سبحانه)⁴ sent Noah (عليه السلام) to his people when Shirk spread among them and he was the first messenger sent to people on earth as

¹ (عز وجل) (Azza wa Jaal) Glorified and Exalted be He

² (عليهم السلام) Peace be upon them

³ (عليه السلام) ('alaihi-salaam) Peace be upon him

⁴ (سبحانه) (Subhanahu) Exalted be He

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mentioned in the authentic Hadeeths narrated from the Messenger of Allaah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)⁵.

Allaah sent all the Messengers (عليهم السلام) with Islaam. Allaah (عزوجل) says: **[Truly, the religion with Allaah is Islaam.]** So Allaah (سبحانه) clarified that the religion with Him is Islaam and no other religion. Afterwards, Allaah (سبحانه) assured that with another Ayah (Qur'aanic verse) in which He says: **[And whoever seeks a religion other than Islaam, it will never be accepted of him, and in the Hereafter he will be one of the losers.]** So Allaah (عزوجل) indicated that all ways are blocked except this way; Islaam. He explained that Islaam is the only religion whose followers will be accepted and those who embrace other religions will not be accepted. Allaah (عزوجل) says, **[This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My Favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islaam as your religion.]** So He addressed this Ummah (nation based on one creed) through His Messenger Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) informing them that He has perfected their religion, completed His Favour upon them, and chosen for them Islaam as their religion. Thus, this was an indication that Islaam is the religion of Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) and the religion of this Ummah as well as the religion of all the past Prophets and Messengers (عليهم السلام). Allaah (سبحانه) emphasised this by saying, **[He (Allaah) has ordained for you the same religion (Islaamic Monotheism) which He ordained for Nooh (Noah), and that which We have revealed to you (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)), and that which We ordained for Ibraaheem (Abraham), Moosa (Moses) and 'Isaa (Jesus) saying you should establish religion (i.e. to do what it orders you to do practically), and make no divisions in it (religion) (i.e. various sects in religion). Intolerable for the Mushrikoon, is that (Islaamic Monotheism) to which you (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)) call them. Allaah chooses for Himself whom He wills, and guides unto Himself who turns to Him in repentance and in obedience.]** So He addressed this Ummah informing them that He has ordained for them the same religion which He ordained for Noah.

In the Ayah which reads, **["That which We have revealed to you,"]** the pronoun "you" refers to Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ). Allaah (عزوجل) has ordained for this Ummah the same which He ordained for Noah regarding the establishment of Islaam, holding fast to it, and having no divisions in it, and the same which He ordained for Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) regarding the establishment of Islaam and having no divisions in it. This is clarified in Allaah's saying (سبحانه), **[And hold fast, all of you together, to the Rope of Allaah (i.e. this Qur'aan), and be not divided among yourselves]** In another Ayah, Allaah (عزوجل) also states, **[And be not as those who divided and differed among themselves after the clear proofs had come to them.]** It is clearly evident that Allaah (سبحانه) has ordained for us the same religion that He ordained for the past prophets and messengers. Allaah says (سبحانه), **[He (Allaah) has ordained for you the same religion (Islaamic Monotheism) which He ordained**

⁵ (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) (sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

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for Nooh (Noah), and that which We have revealed to you (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)), and that which We ordained for Ibraaheem (Abraham), Moosa (Moses) and 'Isaa (Jesus) saying you should establish religion (i.e. to do what it orders you to do practically), and make no divisions in it (religion) (i.e. various sects in religion).] Allaah (عزوجل) also says, [And who turns away from the religion of Ibraaheem (Abraham) (i.e. Islaamic Monotheism) except him who befools himself? Truly, We chose him in this world and verily, in the Hereafter he will be among the righteous.] [When his Lord said to him, "Submit (i.e. be a Muslim)!" He said, "I have submitted myself (as a Muslim) to the Lord of the 'Alameen (mankind, jinn and all that exists)."] [And this (submission to Allaah, Islaam) was enjoined by Ibraaheem (Abraham) upon his sons and by Ya'qoob (Jacob) (saying), "O my sons! Allaah has chosen for you the (true) religion, then die not except in the Faith of Islaam (as Muslims - Islaamic Monotheism)."]

Allaah (سبحانه) clarified that Ibraaheem recommended his offspring to hold fast to Islaam and so did Yaqoob (Jacob) with his children. He (Allaah) mentioned the same about Noah (عليه السلام) in Soorah Yoonus which tells the story of Noah who told his people: [...and I have been commanded to be of the Muslims (i.e. those who submit to Allaah's Will).] Likewise, Allaah (سبحانه) mentioned about Moses that he said, [O my people! If you have believed in Allaah, then put your trust in Him if you are Muslims (those who submit to Allaah's Will).] Relating the declaration of Bilqees (the queen of Sheba), Allaah (سبحانه) says, [She said: "My Lord! Verily, I have wronged myself, and I submit [in Islaam, together with Sulaimaan (Solomon)] to Allaah, the Lord of the 'Alameen (mankind, jinn and all that exists)."] From these Ayahs and their interpretation, we knew that Islaam is the religion of all prophets and messengers (عليهم السلام). It is verily the religion of Allaah other than which there is no true religion. It is the religion that the messengers were commanded to announce and establish.

Its true essence is Tawheed (belief in the Oneness of Allaah/ monotheism) in respect of His dominion, management, and actions. Likewise, in respect of devoting worship to Him (عزوجل) and in the Oneness of His Names and Attributes. Islaam also means to submit to His command, accept His Law, call to His Cause, hold fast to such acts, and have no divisions or dissociations in that. This is truly the religion, which Allaah commanded us to establish and which He commanded the messengers and the generations that came after them to establish. Allaah (سبحانه) says, [...you should establish religion (i.e. to do what it orders you to do practically), and make no divisions in it (religion) (i.e. various sects in religion).] The establishment of religion is to accept, hold fast to, declare, call to, abide by, and persist in embracing it. The fulfilment of these acts should be proved in beliefs, verbal declarations, and practical observance without any divisions in such matters. In this way, Muslims can be unified, consolidated, strengthened, and then they become a source of fear to their enemy. That was the status of all messengers (عليهم السلام). They were all commanded to establish the religion and have no divisions in it. Every rational person can certainly know the importance of establishing the religion, being unified under its banner, and having no divisions

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represented in the Muslims' strength, the ability to restore their rights from their enemies, and the achievement of victory over them. At the same time, their enemies will fear them when they see their unity, gathering, establishment of their religion, and helping and recommending one another to that. Undoubtedly, gathering, unity and sincere cooperation in the establishment of truth and Justice are the secrets of success and honour for every nation in this world and in the Hereafter.

We know that all messengers (عليهم السلام) were sent with Islaam. They all called to Islaam; they all embraced Islaam, and they were all commanded to establish Islaam. As previously mentioned, establishing Islaam means to bring it to people, call them to it, abide by it in knowledge, deeds, `Aqeedah (creed), and be unified under its banner. This can be attained by believing in Allaah, His angels, His Books, His Messengers, the Last Day, and predestination whether good or bad. This can also be attained by accepting, practicing, and collective cooperation in achieving the teachings of the Honest Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) along with careful caution of opposition and divisions. Thus, much more people will accept and glorify Islaam and Muslim preachers. They also know its validity for all ages and know that Islaam is the true religion that whoever holds fast to it will attain success, victory, honour, dignity, solidarity, strength, and unity with the Muslims.

Islaam is the religion, the law, and the `Aqeedah (creed) of Nooh (Noah), Hood, Saalih, and other Prophets who came after them. `Aqeedah of Islaam signifies the belief in Allaah and the messenger sent to people at certain era i.e. to have faith in the mission of the message of their messenger, and believe in the Oneness of the Lord, abide by the Islaamic Law, and act upon its sayings, deeds, and creeds. Every prophet or Messenger has a law, as clarified when Allaah (عزوجل) says, **[To each among you, We have prescribed a law and a clear way.]** This is only because people's conditions, circumstances, ability to fulfil the ordinances, and perception of true meanings vary greatly. People's minds are not the same in all ages. Similarly, their conditions, circumstances, and abilities are not the same either. Allaah (عزوجل) is All-Knowing of the circumstances of His servants, All-Seeing of their abilities, and All-Knowing of their limits of accepting al-Haqq and the nature of their minds. He (سبحانه) sends the messengers at all times and to all peoples in a way that is suitable for that time and those people because this way is consistent with Allaah's Wisdom, Knowledge, Mercy, and Benevolence. For instance, the people of Nooh (Noah) are not quite equal to the people of Moosa (Moses) in mentality, tolerance, and acceptance of the mission of the messenger, for people greatly vary in their times, minds, tongues, and traditions.

It is out of Allaah's (عزوجل) Wisdom that laws i.e. the legislations, were variable and different, yet they all have one source, which is the worship of Allaah, the belief in His Oneness, and the belief in Him, His Messengers, His Angels, the Last Day, the Books and Predestination. It also includes the belief in the establishment of religion and being unified under its banner, the establishment of Sharee'ah, and obedience to the messenger in his

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mission. This matter was agreed-upon by all the messengers (عليهم السلام). They all agreed upon these principles and preached them. Allaah (عزوجل) 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)."]** They all called people to worship Allaah, resort to Him, believe in His Oneness in every act of worship concerning Salaah, Sawm, etc. Allaah (عزوجل) says, **[And We did not send any Messenger before you (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)) 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)."]** Allaah (عزوجل) also says, **[And (remember) when Allaah took the Covenant of the Prophets, saying: "Take whatever I gave you from the Book and Hikmah (understanding of the Laws of Allaah), and afterwards there will come to you a Messenger (Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)) confirming what is with you; you must, then, believe in him and help him." Allaah said: "Do you agree (to it) and will you take up My Covenant (which I conclude with you)?" They said: "We agree." He said: "Then bear witness; and I am with you among the witnesses (for this)."]** **[Then whoever turns away after this, they are the Faasiqoon (rebellious: those who turn away from Allaah's Obedience).]** Allaah (عزوجل) also says, **[Say (O Muslims), "We believe in Allaah and that which has been sent down to us and that which has been sent down to Ibraaheem (Abraham), Ismaeel (Ishmael), Ishaq (Isaac), Ya'qoob (Jacob), and to al-Asbaat [the offspring of the twelve sons of Ya'qoob (Jacob)], and that which has been given to Moosa (Moses) and 'Isaa (Jesus), and that which has been given to the Prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and to Him we have submitted (in Islaam)."]** Thus, we know that all the messengers were sent to convey the same message, so we should believe in and accept that making no distinction between the messengers in these matters. Allaah (عزوجل) 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 say), "We make no distinction between one another of His Messengers" - and they say, "We hear, and we obey. (We seek) Your Forgiveness, our Lord, and to You is the return (of all)."]**

Since the laws were different and variable according to Allaah's Wisdom and knowledge of the circumstances of His servants and the conditions of people to whom the messengers were sent; their circumstances, mentalities, and abilities to accept the laws and obligations, therefore, the laws varied; some acts were ordained in one law but were not in another. Also, some acts were prohibited in one law but were not prohibited in another. This is out of a deep wisdom and for the great secrets originated from Allaah's Wisdom, Knowledge, Power, Great Benevolence, and Generosity (عزوجل).

The restrictions and controls imposed by some laws are for certain wisdoms and secrets. Perhaps, they were also imposed for the great disobedience practiced by the people to

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whom the messengers were sent, their audacity against Allaah, and their total negligence of His commands and prohibitions. Allaah imposed some restrictive laws upon them for these reasons. Allaah (عزوجل) says, **[For the wrong-doing of the Jews, We made unlawful for them certain good foods which had been lawful for them - and for their hindering many from Allaah's Way; And their taking of Ribaa (usury) though they were forbidden from taking it and their devouring of men's substance wrongfully (bribery).]** Allaah (سبحانه) states that He made unlawful for the children of Israaeel, the Jews, certain good foods, which were originally lawful, for their evil-doings. Since Prophet Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) is the last of all the prophets and messengers, his law was the best and the most perfect of all the laws as it is the last of all laws and is directed to all people until the Day of Resurrection. As the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) was the Last Prophet and was sent generally to all Jinn (creatures created from fire) and mankind, Allaah's (سبحانه) Wisdom predestined his law to be the most perfect, complete and integral of all laws in regulating the servants' interests during their life and in the Hereafter. Indeed, Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) is the Last Prophet and Messenger as 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.]** There are many recurrent Hadeeths narrated from the Messenger of Allaah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) stating that he is the last Prophet. Thanks to Allaah, this is something agreed-upon (by all scholars and Muslims) and is a necessarily-known religious matter of Islaam. All Muslims have agreed that anyone who claims Prophethood after him is a Kaafir (disbeliever) and a liar who should be asked to repent, so he should repent or he shall be killed as a Kaafir. Allaah (عزوجل) sent him to all people and this is also agreed upon by all Muslims. The Qur'aanic verses and Prophetic Hadeeths indicate that he is Allaah's Messenger sent to all creatures; Arabs and non-Arabs, red and black, and Jinn and mankind. He is Allaah's Messenger sent to all creatures since the day of his mission until the Day of Resurrection. This is clarified in Allaah's (عزوجل) saying, **[Say (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)): "O mankind! Verily, I am sent to you all as the Messenger of Allaah - to Whom belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth. Laa ilaaha illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshipped but He). It is He Who gives life and causes death. So believe in Allaah and His Messenger (Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)), the Prophet who can neither read nor write (i.e. Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)), who believes in Allaah and His Words [(this Qur'aan), the Taurat (Torah) and the Injeel (Gospel) and also Allaah's Word: "Be!" - And he was, i.e. 'Isaa (Jesus) son of Maryam (Mary), (عليهما السلام)], and follow him so that you may be guided."]** So Allaah (عزوجل) make the true guidance conditional upon following and believing in him. Thus, it is crystal clear that there is no true guidance or 'Eemaan (Faith) except by taking the path of Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) and following his way after he had been sent by Allaah (سبحانه).

Allaah (عزوجل) says, **[Say (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) to mankind): "If you (really) love Allaah then follow me (i.e. accept Islaamic Monotheism, follow the Qur'aan and the Sunnah), Allaah will love you and forgive you your sins.]** Allaah (سبحانه) has commanded His Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) to say to people, **[Say (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) to mankind):**

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"If you (really) love Allaah then follow me (i.e. accept Islamic Monotheism, follow the Qur'aan and the Sunnah), Allaah will love you and forgive you your sins.] It is then evident that there is no way to love Allaah and seek His forgiveness except by following the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ). Allaah (عزوجل) 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]** Allaah (عزوجل) says, **[Blessed be He Who sent down the criterion (of right and wrong, i.e. this Qur'aan) to His slave (Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)) that he may be a warner to the 'Alameen (mankind and jinn).]** Allaah (سبحانه) told us that the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) is the warner of 'Alameen. The word "'Alameen" refers to mankind. Some scholars said that "warner" here refers to the Qur'aan and others say that it is the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ). Both opinions are true as the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) is a warner to all mankind and the Qur'aan is a warner to all mankind as well. The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) is a warner and his Book also warns all creation including Jinn and humans who are rational and Mukallaf (meeting the conditions to be held legally accountable for their actions).

It is reported in the two Saheeh (authentic) Books of Hadeeth⁶ from Jaabir (رضي الله عنه) who said, the noble Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said, **"Every prophet used to be sent to his nation only but I have been sent to all mankind."** It is reported in the Saheeh of Muslim that Aboo Moosa al-Ash'aree (رضي الله عنه) narrated that the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said, **"By Him in whose Hand my soul is, every Jew or Christian of this Ummah (nation) who hears about me and dies unbelieving in me will be of the inhabitants of Hellfire."** It is necessarily known from Islaam that he is Allaah's Messenger sent to all mankind; to the Jews and the Christians, the Arabs and the non-Arabs, and the human races as well as the Jinn. Whoever accepts his call and follows his way, will gain survival, happiness, and glad end. Whoever deviates from his way will be afflicted with failure, regret, and hellfire. Allaah (عزوجل) says, **[These are the limits (set by) Allaah (or ordinances as regards laws of inheritance), and whosoever obeys Allaah and His Messenger (Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)) will be admitted to Gardens under which rivers flow (in Paradise), to abide therein, and that will be the great success. And whosoever disobeys Allaah and His Messenger (Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)), and transgresses His limits, He will cast him into the Fire, to abide therein; and he shall have a disgraceful torment.]** Allaah (عزوجل) says, **[And whatsoever the Messenger (Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)) gives you, take it; and whatsoever he forbids you, abstain (from it). And fear Allaah; verily, Allaah is Severe in punishment.]** The noble Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said, **["My entire Ummah will enter Paradise except who refuses, then it was said: O Messenger of Allaah, who will refuse? He said: Whoever obeys me will enter Paradise, and whoever disobeys me is the one who refuses."]** That is because his message is general (to all mankind) and he is the Last Prophet, so his law is the most perfect of all laws and his Ummah is the best of all. Allaah (عزوجل) says, **[You [true believers in Islamic Monotheism, and real followers of Prophet Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)] and his**

⁶ i.e. al-Bukhaaree and Muslim

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Sunnah] are the best of peoples ever raised up for mankind] Allaah (سبحانه) also says, [This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My Favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islaam as your religion.] Thus, Allaah (سبحانه) indicates that He has perfected the religion for this Ummah. Each of the previous religions was proper and integral for the messenger who was sent with it. It is suitable for the people to whom he was sent in a way that was appropriate for their conditions and circumstances. As for this Ummah (of Muhammad), Allaah (سبحانه) has perfected their religion for them in all meanings and made it valid for all circumstances and conditions, in wealth and poverty, in peace and war, in adversity and prosperity, and in all regions of the world and all times until the Day of Resurrection.

I only intended to mention in brief some of the merits of this Sharee'ah and its great secrets, as it is apparent to everyone with the least knowledge that it is not possible for anyone to enumerate the merits of this Sharee'ah. How could anyone count its merits while it is sent by the All-Wise and the All-Seeing who knows everything in the past and in the future until the Day of Resurrection. Allaah (عزوجل) is All-Knowing of the circumstances of His Servants and the secrets of His Law. Indeed, it is enough for any seeker of knowledge to mention some of the merits of this Sharee'ah as Allaah (عزوجل) says, **[Then We have put you (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)) on a (plain) way of (Our) commandment [like the one which We commanded Our Messengers before you (i.e. legal ways and laws of the Islaamic Monotheism)]. So follow you that (Islaamic Monotheism and its laws), and follow not the desires of those who know not.⁷ Verily, they can avail you nothing against Allaah (if He wants to punish you). Verily, the Zaalimoon (polytheists, wrong-doers) are Auliyyaa' (protectors, helpers) of one another, but Allaah is the Walee (Helper, Protector) of the Muttaqoon (the pious).]**

⁷ Tafseer at-Tabaree