

# SHAHAADA - 1<sup>st</sup> Pillar Of Islam

All notes are by Br. Imran, President of the IREF – Islamic Research & Educational Foundation

## SHAHAADA - Arabic : الشَّهَادَةُ

### 1<sup>st</sup> PILLAR OF ISLAM

❖ Attest There Is No God But Allah and Verily Muhammad[s] Is The Messenger of Allah

The Arabic words of Muhammad[s] for the above English Transliteration are : *Shaahadati an Laa Ilaaha IllAllahu wa Anna Muhammad ar Rasoolullahi*. This is THE CREED OF ISLAM – Without publicly confessing this, no one is a Muslim.

The first part of the Shahaada requires Muslims to believe in One Allah and this is the central tenet of the Islamic Faith. Around this tenet, every other thing in Islam revolves. Muslims are continuously reminded of this foundational belief through the recital of the Shahaada during many pivotal moments of a Muslim's routine life.

The second part of the Shahaada requires Muslims to acknowledge and testify to the belief in the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as Allah's messenger. This serves as a reminder to Muslims of the importance of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), but also as a reminder to never associate partners with Allah, for He is just a Messenger, and Allah Remains One God alone.

### FEW FACTS ABOUT THE FIRST PILLAR OF ISLAM – SHAHAADA - Arabic: الشَّهَادَةُ

- ❖ Shahadah is a sacred testament given for Muslims to uphold throughout their lifetime and embody in all of their intentions and actions.
- ❖ The Shahadah is recited daily 5 times in the *Azaan* (Call to Worship / Pray Allah).
- ❖ Muslims recite the Shahadah regularly in their Salah – the second pillar of Islam
- ❖ Reciting Shahadah marks anyone's entrance into Islam and their life as a Muslim.
- ❖ Shahadah is the first words taught to a Muslim baby/baba upon entering the world, and all Muslims strive for the Shahadah to be their last words upon their death.

Arabic word *SHAHAADA* is from root Arabic alphabets *Sheen haa daal* and if we search this root in the Qur'an alone, then it has been used for about 160 times in 8 derived forms like *Ash-had* – 7 times, *Tash-hidu* – 2 times, *Shaahid* – 21 times, *Sha-hid* – 44 times, *Shaheed* – 56 times, *Mash-hood* – 3 times, *Mash-had* – 1 time and *SHAHAADA* – 26 times. *SHAHAADA* has basically 3 meanings : (1) To self-attest a belief (2) Attest your belief to others (3) To call all others to your attested belief.

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The First Pillar of Islam, that is, SHAHAADA can be well understood under two parts.

**THE FIRST PART OF SHAAHADA** is attesting and proselytizing the belief in Allah as The Only God, without any associates unto Him in any capacity, in all the matters and in every aspect of life that exists besides Him in entire observable and non-observable Universe, now and in Hereafter.

Thus, bearing witness includes understanding and explaining your belief with sound knowledge based on rational and correct evidences.

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Allah said in **Al Qur'an** : Sura Aal e Imran : 03 Aayat : 18 : *"Allah Witnesses there is No God Except Him and [so do] the angels and those who have knowledge [that Allah is] Sustaining and Maintaining [all His Creation] in perfect Justice. There is No God Except Him The Exalted in Might, The Wise"*.

Allah said in **Al Qur'an** : Sura Muhammad[s] : 47 Aayat : 18 : *"Know then (with perfect Knowledge) that there is no god but Allah, and ask forgiveness for your faults, and also for the believing men and women: for Allah knows how you move about and how you live in your homes."*

Allah said in **Al Qur'an** : Sura Fussilat : 41 Aayat : 53 : *"We shall show them Our Signs in the horizons and within themselves until it becomes clear to them that it is the truth. But is it not sufficient concerning your Lord that He is, over all things, a Witness?"*

## SEVEN BASIC WITNESSES OF BELIEF IN ALLAH AS THE ONLY GOD

1. To Call and Describe Allah, Only by The Names and The Attributes that are mentioned in Qur'an or Authentic Sayings of Muhammad[s] and Invite mankind to believe in Allah as believed by Muhammad[s] and his male and female Companions i.e., Sahaaba Akraam[r].

**Al Qur'an** : Sura Aaraaf: 07 Aayat : 180 : *"And to Allah belong (Asmaa ul Husna) The Best Names, so Invoke Him by them. And leave [the company of] those who practice deviation concerning His Names. They will be recompensed for what they have been doing"*.

**Al Qur'an** : Sura Isra': 17 Aayat : 110 : *"Say, "Call upon Allah or call upon the Most Merciful [ar-Rahmān]. Whichever [name] you call - to Him belong the best names....."*

**Al Qur'an** : Sura Ta'ha: 20 Aayat : 08 : *"Allah—there is no god 'worthy of worship' except Him. He has the Most Beautiful Names"*.

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The Muslim man or woman who invites and proselytizes mankind to believe in Allah by His Names and Attributes mentioned in Qur'an and Authentic Sayings of Muhammad[s] in the understanding of the beloved most male and female Companions of Muhammad[s] is Declared by Allah as the best in speech.

**Al Qur'an** : Sura Fussilat : 41 Aayat : 33 : "And who is better in speech than the one who Invites mankind to [believe in] Allah, does good deeds and proclaims to from Muslims".

Understanding these Names in their Right Sense is so important, that, Muhammad[s] gave glad tidings of Jannat [Paradise] to the Muslim who memorizes them (with correct understanding) in a Hadees [Saying of Muhammad(s)] :

Sahih **Buqhari** : Vol : 09 H : 7392 in which Muhammad[s] said that *Allah has 99 NAMES, one less than hundred, so whoever memorizes them (with correct understanding) will enter Heaven.*

2. To acknowledge that Allah Alone is the Originator of all Creation and everything besides Allah is His Creation whom Allah Alone Sustains and the beginning, existing and end to anything in Universe is by The Divine Will of Allah.

**Al Qur'an** : Sura Furqhaan : 25 Aayat : 02 : "*He to whom belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth: no son has He begotten, nor has He a partner in His dominion: it is He who Created all things, and ordered them in due proportions*".

**Al Qur'an** : Sura Ta'ha : 20 Aayat : 50 : "*.....He said, "Our Lord is He who gave each thing its form and then guided [it]"*".

3. To concede that Allah is the Only One God without an equal to Him nor Greater than Him nor resembling Him in any capacity in His Person, in His Names and in His Attributes and that none can give an example like the example that Allah Gives.

**Al Qur'an** : Sura Iqhlalas : 112 Aayat : 04 : "*And there is none like that Only One*" : **Al Qur'an** : Sura Shu'raa : 42 Aayat : 11 : "*...There is nothing like unto Him...*"

**Al Qur'an** : Sura Hashar : 59 Aayat : 23 : "*.....Exalted is Allah above whatever they associate with Him*".

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4. To believe and preach that Perfection only befits Allah, who neither makes an error nor forgets anything and He neither requires that His Creation Sustains Him or Feeds Him.

Al Qur'an : Sura Ta'ha : 20 Aayat : 52 : ".....*My Lord neither errs nor forgets*":

Al Qur'an : Sura Zaariyaat : 51 Aayat : 57 "*I do not want from them any provision, nor do I want them to feed Me*"

5. Allah does not take shape of any of His Creation but Guides His Creation by inspiring to them. And to Guide humans, Allah chose Prophets from among humans and inspired them with His Books and Revelations. Islam strictly does not believe in anthropomorphism. The word 'anthropomorphism' ('anthros' meaning man and 'morph' meaning shape). Forget Allah taking any form of a creation or a human being, He does not even speak to humans directly, including to His Prophets.

Al Qur'an : Sura Shu'raa : 42 Aayat : 51 : "*It is not fitting for a man that Allah should speak to him except by inspiration, or from behind a veil, or by the sending of a messenger to reveal, with Allah's permission, what Allah wills: for He is Most High, Most Wise*"

Al Qur'an : Sura An'am : 06 Aayat : 103 : "*No vision can grasp Him, but His grasp is over all vision: He is above all comprehension, yet is acquainted with all things*".

Sahih Buqhari : Vol : 09 H : 7380 : Aayisha[r] said, "*If anyone tells you that Muhammad has seen his Lord, he is a liar, for Allah says: 'No vision can grasp Him.'*" (Qur'an : 6:103)....."

6. Allah will give death to all life and Allah Alone will resurrect them and Call to accountability whomever He Pleases. Therefore, all matters return to Allah and Allah Alone is Master of Judgment Day and His Judgment is Perfectly Just. To Him alone all returns.

Al Qur'an : Sura Aal e Imran : 03 Aayat : 185 : "*Every life shall taste death: And only on Day of Judgment you will be surely paid your full recompense. Only he who is Saved far from the Fire and Admitted to the Garden will have attained True Success ; And the life of this world is nothing except beautified deception*".

Al Qur'an : Sura Zumar : 39 Aayaat : 67 to 70 : "*No just estimate have they made of Allah, such as is due to Him: On Day of Judgment the whole of the earth will be in His Grip, and all Heavens will be rolled up in His right Hand: Glory to Him! High is He above the Partners they attribute to Him! And the Horn will be blown, and whoever is in the heavens and whoever is on the earth will fall dead except whom Allah wills. Then it (Trumpet) will be blown again, and at once they will be*

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*standing, looking on. And the Earth will shine with the Light of its Lord: The Record (of Deeds) will be placed (open); all Prophets and the all Witnesses will be brought forward and a Just decision Pronounced between them; and they will not be wronged (in the least). And every life will be fully compensated [for] all they did; and He is most Knowing of what they do".*

7. Allah Alone shall be Worshipped BUT only in Ways Commanded by Allah and as practiced and taught by His Final Messenger, Muhammad[s]. Unless anything is proven from Qur'an or from Muhammad[s] is not a part of Islam and that which is not a part of Islam will not be Rewarded by Allah on Judgment Day. Further, in all matters of life in this world, all humans shall be Ruled by Laws of Allah in accordance with the Teachings of Muhammad[s] taught from Qur'an and by Inspiration to Muhammad[s]. All Laws whether they be laws relating to personal life, civil, social, marital, education, economy, business, war, family planning, dietary, funeral, celebrations, commemorations and so on, shall only be as Commanded by Allah in Qur'an and in accordance with practice and teachings of Muhammad[s]. From birth till death, everything shall be only to Seek Pleasure of Allah.

*Al Qur'an : Sura Ana'm : 06 Aayaat : 161 to 164 : "Say: "Verily, my Lord has Guided me to a way that is straight,- an Upright Religion - the Path (trodden) by Abraham the True in Faith, and he (Abraham[a]) joined not gods with Allah. Say: "Truly, my Prayers and my Service of Sacrifice, my life and my death, are for (Pleasing) Allah (Alone), the Cherisher of the Worlds: No partner has He: this I have been Commanded, and I am the first of those who are Muslims (bowing to His Will). Say, "Is it other than Allah I should desire as a lord while He is the Lord of all things? And every soul earns not [blame] except against itself, and no bearer of burdens will bear the burden of another. Then to your Lord is your return, and He will inform you concerning that over which you used to differ".*

**THE SECOND PART OF SHAAHADA** is attesting and proselytizing the belief in Muhammad[s] as the Last and Final Prophet and Messenger of Allah, whom Allah Sent *Unlike* all Prophets and Messengers before Muhammad[s], **BECAUSE** all Prophets and Messengers before him were sent only to guide their own people and their Prophethood, Messengerhood and the Message i.e., Books and Revelations were time bound and not till eternity. But the Prophethood, Messengerhood and The Message with which Muhammad[s] was sent i.e., The Glorious Qur'an is to Guide entire mankind till eternity.

The bearing witness to finality of Prophethood and Messengerhood of Muhammad[s], very importantly includes the fact, that, none of the deeds on Judgment Day will be Rewarded by Allah, even done by a person who claimed to be a Muslim in this life, unless and until, his or her actions were not in accordance with the teachings and practice of Muhammad[s] as understood, practiced

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and explained by the male and female companions of Muhammad[s] called as Sahaaba and Sahaabiyaat (*Razi Allah u Ta'la Anhum Ajmayeen* – May Allah Be Pleased with them all).

**Al Qur'an** : Sura Ma'ida : 05 Aayat : 55 : "(O Muslims!) *Your (true) friends are Allah, His Messenger, and the (devout Muslim) believers,- those who establish regular prayers and regular charity, and they bow down humbly (in Worship to Allah)*".

Thus, bearing witness includes understanding and explaining your belief with sound knowledge based on rational and correct evidences.

The following **AAYAAT** of Al Qur'an will elucidate the second part of the Shahaada, that is, to Bear Witness that Muhammad[s] is verily the Messenger of Allah.

- ✓ Al Qur'an : Sura Aaraaf : 07 Aayat : 158 : Say, "O mankind! I am the Messenger of Allah, sent to all of you, to Him Belongs the dominion of the Heavens and the Earth; there is no god but He; it is He that gives both life and death. So, believe in Allah and His Messenger, the Unlettered Prophet, who believes in Allah and His words" (The Qur'an); follow him (Muhammad[s]) that (so) you all may be Guided"
- ✓ Al Qur'an : Sura Muhammad[s] : 47 Aayat : 02 : And those who believe and do righteous deeds and believe in what has been sent down upon Muhammad - and it is the truth from their Lord - He will remove from them their misdeeds and amend their condition.
- ✓ Al Qur'an : Sura Ahzaab : 33 Aayat : 40 : Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but (he is) the Messenger of Allah, and the Seal of the Prophets (The Last Prophet): and Allah has full knowledge of all things.
- ✓ Al Qur'an : Sura Jum'ua : 62 Aayat : 02 : It is He Who has sent amongst the Unlettered a messenger from among themselves, to rehearse to them His Signs, to sanctify them, and to instruct them in Scripture (The Qur'an) and Wisdom (*Explanation and Practice according to Muhammad[s]*), although they had been, before, in manifest error.
- ✓ Al Qur'an : Sura Ambiya : 21 Aayat : 107 : And We have not sent you [Muhammad(s)], except as a mercy to the worlds.
- ✓ Al Qur'an : Sura Ahzaab : 33 Aayat : 06 : The Prophet is closer to the Believers than their own selves, and his wives are their mothers.....

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- ✓ Al Qur'an : Sura Tauba : 09 Aayat : 128 : Now has come unto you a Messenger (Muhammad[s]) from amongst yourselves: it grieves him that you should perish: ardently anxious is he over you: to the Believers is he most kind and merciful.
- ✓ Al Qur'an : Sura Ahzaab : 33 Aayat : 21 : You [mankind] have indeed in the Messenger of Allah a beautiful pattern (of conduct) for any one whose hope is in Allah and the Final Day, and who engages much in the Praise of Allah.
- ✓ Al Qur'an : Sura Ahzaab : 33 Aayaat : 45 to 48 : O Prophet, indeed We have sent you as a witness and a bringer of good tidings and a warner. And one who invites [mankind] to Allah, by His permission, and an illuminating lamp. And give good tidings to the believers that they will have from Allah great bounty. And do not obey the disbelievers and the hypocrites and disregard their annoyance, and rely upon Allah. And sufficient is Allah as Disposer of affairs.
- ✓ Al Qur'an : Sura Ma'ida : 05 Aayat : 67 : O Messenger! proclaim (Qur'an to mankind) which has been Revealed to you from your Lord; If you failed to do so (Proclaim Qur'an to mankind), then you have not fulfilled the Mission of Messenger hood; And Allah will defend you from people (who are impish/mischievous); For Allah does not Guide who reject Faith[deliberately].
- ✓ Al Qur'an : Sura Ghaashiya : 88 Aayaat : 21 to 26 : So, Remind [O Muhammad(s)]; you are only a reminder. You are not over them a controller and Manager of their deeds/affairs. However, he/she who turns away and disbelieves; Allah will *certainly* punish him/her with a mighty Punishment. Indeed, to Us is their return. Then it will be for Us to call them to account.
- ✓ Al Qur'an : Sura Ahzaab : 33 Aayat : 36 : It is not fitting for a Believer, man or woman, when a matter has been decided by Allah and His Messenger to have any *other* option after that Decision: if any one disobeys Allah and His Messenger, he is indeed on a clearly wrong Path
- ✓ Al Qur'an : Sura Nisa : 04 Aayat : 65 : But no, by your Lord, they [Muslims] can have no (True) Faith, until they make you (Muhammad[s]) *their* Judge in all matters [of life] between them, and without any burden find full comfort in your decision/s and accept your decision/s with the fullest conviction
- ✓ Al Qur'an : Sura Nisa : 04 Aayat : 80 : He who obeys the Messenger, obeys Allah: But if any turn away, We have not sent you[Muhammad(s)] to watch over their (evil deeds).
- ✓ Al Qur'an : Sura Nisa : 04 Aayat : 115 : And whoever opposes the Messenger after Guidance (Qur'an) has become clear to him/her and follows a way other than the way of the Muslim

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believers - We shall leave him/her in the path he/she has chosen [in life other than acceptable by Allah], and land him in Hell,- what an Evil refuge!

- ✓ Al Qur'an : Sura Aal e Imran : 03 Aayat : 31 : Say: "If ye do love Allah, Follow me: Allah will love you and forgive you your sins: For Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful."
- ✓ Al Qur'an : Sura Aal e Imran : 03 Aayat : 32 : Say, " **OBEY ALLAH AND HIS MESSENGER**. But if you turn away - then indeed, Allah does not like the disbelievers."
- ✓ Al Qur'an : Sura Nisa : 04 Aayat : 59 : O you who have believed, **OBEY ALLAH AND HIS MESSENGER** and those in authority among you. And if you disagree over anything, refer it to Allah and the Messenger, if you should believe in Allah and the Last Day. That is the best [way] and best in result.
- ✓ Al Qur'an : Sura Ma'ida : 05 Aayat : 92 : And **OBEY ALLAH AND HIS MESSENGER** and beware. And if you turn away - then know that upon Our Messenger is only [the responsibility for] clear notification.
- ✓ Al Qur'an : Sura Anfaal : 08 Aayat : 20 : O you who have believed, **OBEY ALLAH AND HIS MESSENGER** and do not turn from him while you hear [his order].
- ✓ Al Qur'an : Sura Anfaal : 08 Aayat : 24 : O you who have believed, **RESPOND TO ALLAH AND HIS MESSENGER** when he calls you to that which gives you life. And know that Allah intervenes between a man and his heart and that to Him you will be gathered.
- ✓ Al Qur'an : Sura Anfaal : 08 Aayat : 46 : And **OBEY ALLAH AND HIS MESSENGER**; and fall into no disputes[*between yourselves*], then *in that case* you lose courage and your power departs; and be patient and persevering: For Allah is with those who patiently persevere.
- ✓ Al Qur'an : Sura Noor : 24 Aayat : 52 : And whoever **OBEYS ALLAH AND HIS MESSENGER** and fears Allah and is conscious of Him - it is those who are the attainers of Ultimate Success.
- ✓ Al Qur'an : Sura Noor : 24 Aayat : 54 : Say: " **OBEY ALLAH AND HIS MESSENGER**: but if ye turn away, he is only responsible for the duty placed on him and ye for that placed on you. If ye obey him, ye shall be on right guidance. The Messenger's duty is only to preach the clear (Message).
- ✓ Al Qur'an : Sura Aal e Imran : 03 Aayat : 144 : Muḥammad is not but a messenger. [Other] messengers have passed on before him. So, if he was to die or be killed, would you turn back on your heels [to unbelief]? And he who turns back on his heels will never harm Allah at all; but Allah will reward the grateful.



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- ✓ Al Qur'an : Sura Zumar : 39 Aayaat : 11 to 15 : Say, [O Muḥammad], "Indeed, I have been commanded to worship Allah, [being] sincere to Him in religion. "And I am commanded to be the first of those who bow to Allah in Islam." Say: "I would, if I disobeyed my Lord, indeed have fear of the Penalty of a Mighty Day." Say, "Allah [alone] do I worship, sincere to Him in my religion. So, worship what you will besides Him." Say, "Indeed, the losers are the ones who will lose themselves and their families on the Day of Resurrection. Unquestionably, that is the manifest loss."

The following **AHAADEES** (Sayings of Muhammad[s]) will elucidate the second part of the Shahaada, that is, to Bear Witness that Muhammad[s] is Verily The Messenger of Allah.

- ✓ Sahih Buqhari : Vol : 04 H : 3532 : *Muhammad[s] said that he has 5 NAMES and they are : Muhammad(s) – The Praised One, Ahmed(s) – The Praise Worthy, al Maahi(s) - through whom Allah eliminates infidelity/disbelief, al Haashir – first of all to be resurrected on Day of Judgment, al Aaqhib – Last and Final of all the Prophets till eternity.*
- ✓ Sahih Buqhari : Vol : 04 H : 15 : The Prophet (ﷺ) said "None of you will have faith till he loves me more than his father, his children and all mankind."

## SUMMARY

It is an obligation upon every individual Muslim male and every Muslim female to learn about Allah and His Messenger, on the above-mentioned basic conditions and preach the same to non-Muslims as well as wrongly believing and wrongly practicing Muslims in the world, so that we may strive to justify our belief in the First Pillar of Islam.

Wallah u Aalam ! – And Allah Knows Best \*