

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## The First, Main, Primary Foundation & Objective of the Call to Allaah: The Correct ‘Aqeedah (Creed)

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The foundation of the call to Allaah (da’wah) is **Tawheed (the Oneness of Allaah)** and the correction of ‘Aqeedah (creed). This is because belief is the **root and foundation** upon which all actions are built. If belief is corrupted, no action—no matter how outwardly righteous—will be accepted.



(Photo taken on Jabal al-Nour – Mount Hira)

### The Call of Every Prophet Was Built Upon ‘Aqeedah

Every Prophet sent by Allaah, from Nuh (Noah, peace be upon him) to Muhammad (ﷺ), began their mission by calling to the pure worship of Allaah alone. They did not start with secondary aspects of Islam, such as laws of social conduct, governance, or transactions, but rather with the central message of Tawheed.

Allaah the Most High said: “And We certainly sent into every nation a messenger, [saying]: ‘Worship Allaah and avoid Taghut (false gods).’”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Surah an-Nahl 16:36

Similarly, each Prophet is recorded in the Qur'an as calling their people to Tawheed:

- Nuh (عليه السلام) said: "O my people! Worship Allaah! You have no deity other than Him."<sup>2</sup>
- Hud (عليه السلام) said: "O my people! Worship Allaah! You have no deity other than Him."<sup>3</sup>
- Salih (عليه السلام) said: "O my people! Worship Allaah! You have no deity other than Him."<sup>4</sup>

The fact that this exact same call is repeated by all the Prophets shows that the first priority of da'wah must be 'Aqeedah.

### **'Aqeedah Determines Salvation or Eternal Punishment**

Allaah made 'Aqeedah the decisive factor between being saved from Hellfire or being doomed to it eternally. The most severe and unforgivable sin is shirk (associating partners with Allaah), which negates Tawheed.

Allaah said: "Indeed, Allaah does not forgive associating partners with Him (shirk), but He forgives whatever is less than that for whom He wills. And whoever associates others with Allaah has certainly committed a tremendous sin."<sup>5</sup>

From this, we understand that if a person dies upon shirk, no amount of good deeds can save him. But if a person dies upon Tawheed, even if he has sins, he is under Allaah's mercy and may be forgiven.

Furthermore, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: "The one who dies while associating anything with Allaah will enter the Fire."<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Surah al-A'raf 7:59

<sup>3</sup> Surah al-A'raf 7:65

<sup>4</sup> Surah al-A'raf 7:73

<sup>5</sup> Surah an-Nisaa' 4:48

<sup>6</sup> Sahih Muslim, 93

## **The Greatest Oppression: Shirk**

Allaah declared that the worst form of dhulm (oppression) is shirk:

“Indeed, associating others with Allaah is a great injustice.”<sup>7</sup>

This is because oppression means putting something in the wrong place. Since Allaah alone deserves worship, giving it to others is the most severe form of wrongdoing.

The Prophet ﷺ also explained that the right of Allaah over His servants is that they worship Him alone without associating anything with Him:

Mu’adh ibn Jabal رضى الله عنه reported: I was riding behind the Prophet ﷺ on a donkey, and he said: “O Mu’adh! Do you know what is the right of Allaah upon His slaves?” I said, “Allaah and His Messenger know best.” He said: “The right of Allaah upon His slaves is that they worship Him and do not associate anything with Him.”<sup>8</sup>

## **The Root Cause of the Decline of the Muslim Ummah**

One of the greatest causes of the weakness of the Muslim Ummah today is corruption in ‘Aqeedah. Many Muslims have fallen into major shirk, such as:

- Making du’aa (supplication) to the dead
- Seeking intercession from saints and "holy men"
- Performing tawaaf (circumambulation) around graves
- Believing in amulets and charms to bring good fortune or prevent harm

Allaah says: “Verily, those whom you call upon besides Allaah do not hear your calls. And if they were able to hear you, they would not be able to answer you. And on the Day of Judgment, they will disown your worship of them.”<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Surah Luqman 31:13

<sup>8</sup> Bukhari & Muslim

<sup>9</sup> Surah Fatir 35:14

This ayah clearly proves that calling upon anyone other than Allaah—whether angels, prophets, or righteous people—is shirk.

The Prophet ﷺ warned: “Du‘aa (supplication) is worship.”<sup>10</sup>

So, calling upon anyone other than Allaah is taking worship away from Him.

### **The Priority of Da’wah: Correcting ‘Aqeedah First**

When the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) sent Mu’adh ibn Jabal رضي الله عنه to Yemen, he instructed him:

“Indeed, you are going to a people from the People of the Book. So, let the first thing you call them to be the testimony that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allaah.”<sup>11</sup>

The Prophet (ﷺ) did not command Mu’adh to start with salah (prayer), zakat, or any other action. Instead, he was to first rectify their belief in Tawheed.

Similarly, when the Prophet ﷺ began his da’wah in Makkah, he did not start by calling people to leave alcohol, avoid riba, or be kind to their parents. Rather, he focused entirely on Tawheed for 13 years before any laws of Islam were revealed.

Conclusion: ‘Aqeedah Is the Foundation of Islam

Just as a building will collapse if it has a weak foundation, a person’s Islam will be invalid if it is not built upon the correct ‘Aqeedah.

Therefore, the call to Allaah must begin with Tawheed, just as the Prophets did. This is the decisive factor between Islam and disbelief, salvation and punishment, guidance and misguidance.

May Allaah keep us firm upon Tawheed and grant us sincerity in calling to it. Ameen.

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<sup>10</sup> Sunan Abi Dawood, 1479

<sup>11</sup> Bukhari & Muslim

