

AN INTRODUCTION TO AQEEDAH (MUSLIM BELIEF)

PART 1

What is Aqeedah?

- Linguistically “a tight knot”
- Faith/belief with strong conviction;
- The correct Aqeedah is the Aqeedah of Islam.

Main Topics of the Aqeedah of Islam:

- Belief in the six pillars of Iman (Hadith Jibreel) and other related matters of belief e.g. belief in the Companions etc.;
- The most important matter in Aqeedah is the belief in Allah (Tawheed).

Benefits of Studying Aqeedah

- Corrects the belief in the six pillars of Iman;
- Moulds one’s manners and behaviour;
- Know who your Creator is;
- Avoid Bidah related to belief in particular;
- Know the path of the Sahaba and those who followed them in righteousness;
- Contentment in this world and the next (An-Nahl:97).

It’s Position Amongst the Islamic Sciences

- It is the foundation of the entire religion;
- All other Islamic sciences are subsidiary to it.

Excellence of Aqeedah

- First obligation – When Muadh® was sent to Yemen....;
- Condition for acceptance of worship;
- Foundation of the call of the Prophets and Messengers (An-Nahl:36);
- Purpose of creation (Ad-Dhariyaat:56).

Where is the Muslim Aqeedah Derived From?

- The Qur’an and Sunnah (Al-Israa:36), as understood by the early generations;
- Intellect does not play a primary role.

THE BELIEF IN ALLAH

Always mentioned first when the pillars of Iman are mentioned (Al-Baqarah:285);

1- Tawheed of Lordship:

- a. Singling out Allah for the actions relating to His Lordship e.g. creation, provision etc. (Al-Anaam: 102);
- b. Benefits of believing in Allah’s Lordship e.g. contentment, patience in the face of calamity;

2- Tawheed of Uloohiyah:

- a. Singling out Allah as the only one worthy of worship (Al-Baqarah: 21);
- b. Worship is a comprehensive term in Islam including the actions of the heart;
- c. Whoever devoted an act of worship to other than Allah has committed Shirk e.g. prostrating to other than Allah;
- d. This type of Tawheed was the mission of the Prophets and Messengers (An-Nahl:36);
- e. Benefits of this type of Tawheed – saved from the gravest sin which is Shirk.

- 3- Worship is of four types:
 - a. Physical e.g. prayer;
 - b. Verbal e.g. dhikr;
 - c. Monetary e.g. Zakat;
 - d. With the heart e.g. Love and fear of Allah.
- 4- Tawheed of the Names & Attributes of Allah:
 - a. Singling out Allah with the names and attributes He has described Himself with in the revelation;
 - b. The names and attributes of Allah can only be known through revelation;
 - c. The names of Allah are innumerable, not just ninety-nine;
- 5- The correct belief in the attributes of Allah necessitates four matters:
 - a. Belief without distortion of the expression or the meaning (Tahreef);
 - b. Belief without negating some or all the attributes of Allah (Ta'teel)
 - c. Belief without likening the attributes of Allah with the attributes of His creation (Tamtheel)
 - d. Belief without questioning “how” the attribute of Allah is (Takyeef) (As-Shura:11).
- 6- Means of drawing closer to Allah (Tawassul) in Dua:
 - a. Using the names and attributes of Allah (Al-Aaraaf:180);
 - b. By mentioning a good action performed – Hadith of the three in the cave;
 - c. By requesting dua from a righteous, living Muslim.
- 7- Forbidden means of drawing closer to Allah (Tawassul) in Dua:
 - a. To mention the rank of the righteous or Prophets and Messengers in dua;
 - b. By requesting dua (intercession) from a righteous, deceased Muslim – Major shirk.
 - c. To perform acts of worship/dua by graves hoping to gain nearness to Allah - Minor shirk.

FOUNDATIONS OF SHIRK (POLYTHEISM)

Major shirk is to associate partners with Allah in any of the forms of Tawheed e.g. worshipping Jesus(s) and takes one out of the fold of Islam (An-Nisaa: 48).

Minor shirk is anything referred to in the texts as shirk but does not reach the level of major shirk e.g. showing off in worship. This does not take one out of the fold of Islam but tarnishes one's Tawheed (Al Kahf:110).

All types of Shirk stem from one of nine foundations:

- 1- Magic (Al-Baqarah:102-103);
- 2- Soothsaying – Can inform you of things that occurred in the past;
- 3- Superstitious beliefs;
- 4- To offer a sacrifice as a worship for other than Allah (Al-Anaam: 162-163);
- 5- To take an oath in the name of other than Allah;
- 6- To seek refuge with other than Allah (An-Naas:1);
- 7- To make dua to other than Allah (Al-Jinn:18);
- 8- To believe the stars can bring benefit or repel harm;
- 9- To believe that other than Allah can bring benefit or repel harm.