

LAA ILAAHA ILLA ALLAH

A Word of Survival

A Way of Life

Shaykh

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Introduction

All praise is due to Allah. We praise him, seek His help, and ask His forgiveness. We seek refuge with Allah from the evil of our souls and from the diverse consequences of our deeds. Whoever Allah guides, there is none that can misguide him, and whoever Allah misguides, there is none who can guide him. I bear witness that there is no deity that is worthy of worship except for Allah (ﷻ¹), and I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger.

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ ﴾

"O you who believe! Fear Allah (by doing all that He has ordered and by abstaining from all that He has forbidden) as He should be feared. Obey Him, be thankful to Him, and remember Him always, and die not except in a state of Islam (as Muslims with complete submission to Allah)." (3:102)

¹ Glory be to Allah.

﴿ يَتَأْتِيهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً ۚ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا ۝ ﴾

"O mankind! Be dutiful to your Lord, Who created you from a single person (Adam), and from him (Adam) He created his wife (Hawwa (Eve)), and from them both He created many men and women; and fear Allah through Whom you demand (your mutual rights), and (do not cut the relations of) the wombs (kinship). Surely, Allah is Ever an All-Watcher over you." (4:01)

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا ﴿٧٠﴾ يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا ﴾

"O you who believe! Keep your duty to Allah and fear Him, and speak (always) the truth. He will direct you to do righteous good deeds and will forgive you your sins. And whosoever obeys Allah and His Messenger ﷺ², he has indeed achieved a great achievement (i.e. he will be saved from the Hell-fire and will be admitted to Paradise)." (33:70-71)

As to what follows, then the best speech is the speech of Allah (ﷻ), and the best guidance is the guidance of Muhammad (ﷺ), and the worst of affairs are newly-

² Peace be upon him.

invented matters, and every innovation is a misguidance, and every misguidance is in the fire of hell.

Laa Ilaaha Illa Allah: A Word of Survival

Have you ever asked yourself what you wanted from this life and what Allah wanted when he placed us in this life?

There is no doubt that all mankind searches for happiness, peace of mind, and tranquility. Those things cannot be accomplished unless our free will matches the very purpose for which Allah created us and shaped us. Allah (ﷻ) says:

﴿وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ﴾

"And I (Allah) created not the jinn and mankind except that they should worship Me (alone)." (51:56)

And just as we were created without our command or consent, likewise, we will move on from this life and to our death without our command or consent. We would have lived our lives aimlessly except that Allah tested us with the gift of choice and free will. He has sent us messengers, and books of guidance, to inform us and to warn us. He inspired all of His messengers with a single *da'wah* that never changed. Their purpose was to make clear to the people the ultimate goal for which we were created, and without which we can never achieve happiness. Allah (ﷻ) says:

﴿وَلَقَدْ بَعَثْنَا فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَسُولًا أَنِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَاجْتَنِبُوا الطَّاغُوتَ﴾

"And verily, we have sent among every *Ummah* (community, nation) a Messenger (proclaiming): "Worship Allah (Alone), and avoid (or keep away from) *Taaghoot* (all false deities i.e. do not worship *Taaghoot* besides Allah)." (16:36)

﴿وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ مِنْ رَسُولٍ إِلَّا نُوحِي إِلَيْهِ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاعْبُدُونِ﴾

"And We did not send any Messenger before you (O Muhammad ﷺ) but We revealed to him (saying): *Laa ilaaha illa Ana* (none has the right to be worshipped but I (Allah)), so worship Me (Alone and none else)." (21:25)

﴿وَإِذْ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ لِأَبِيهِ وَقَوْمِهِ إِنَّنِي بَرَاءٌ مِمَّا تَعْبُدُونَ ﴿٢٦﴾ إِلَّا الَّذِي فَطَرَنِي فَإِنَّهُ

سَيَهْدِينِ﴾

"And (remember) when Ibraheem (Abraham) said to his father and his people: "Verily, I am innocent of what you worship, "Except Him (i.e. I worship none but Allah Alone) Who did create me; and verily He will guide me."(43:26-27)

And as Noah (³ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام) said to his people:

﴿ أَنْ لَا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا اللَّهَ إِنِّي أَخَافُ عَلَيْكُمْ عَذَابَ يَوْمٍ أَلِيمٍ ﴾

"That you worship none but Allah; surely, I fear for you the torment of a painful Day." (11:26)

³ Peace upon him.

As did Hud, Saaleh, and the other messengers (*alayhimul-salaam*). There was not a single messenger or prophet except that their first declaration to their people was:

﴿ وَإِلَىٰ عَادِ أَخَاهُمْ هُودًا قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مَا لَكُم مِّنْ إِلَهِ غَيْرُهُ إِنِّي أَشْهُمٌ إِلَّا مُمْتَرُونَ ﴾

"And to 'Ad (people We sent) their brother Hud. He said, "O my people! Worship Allah! You have no other *ilaah* (god) but Him. Certainly, you do nothing but invent lies!" (11:50)

And the Maseeh ('Isa - ﷺ) said:

﴿ وَقَالَ الْمَسِيحُ يَا بَنِي إِسْرَآئِيلَ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ رَبِّي وَرَبَّكُمْ إِنَّهُ مَن يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ الْجَنَّةَ وَمَأْوَاهُ النَّارُ وَمَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ أَهْوَارٌ ﴾

"But the Messiah ('Isa (Jesus)) said: "O Children of Israel! Worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord." Verily, whosoever sets up partners (in worship) with Allah, then Allah has forbidden Paradise to him, and the Fire will be his abode. And for the *Zaalimoon* (polytheists and wrong-doers) there are no helpers." (5:72)

The declaration "*laa ilaaha illa Allah*" was the call of all of the messengers, it is the label of *tawheed*, it is the firmest handhold, and it is the word of survival. The Prophet (ﷺ)

said: "Whoever utters his last words saying, '*laa ilaaha illa Allah*', will enter Paradise."⁴

So are those words merely words that are said without relation to the actions that follow them?

Laa Ilaaha Illa Allah: A Way of Life

﴿ قُلْ إِنِّي هَدَانِي رَبِّي إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ دِينًا قِيمًا مِّلَّةَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ حَنِيفًا وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ ﴾

"Say (O Muhammad ﷺ): "Truly, my Lord has guided me to a Straight Path, a right religion, the religion of Ibraheem (Abraham), Haneefa (i.e. the true Al-Islamic Monotheism - to believe in One God (Allah i.e. to worship none but Allah, Alone)) and he was not of Al-Mushrikun." (6:161)

﴿ قُلْ إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَكُسْبِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿١٢٢﴾ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَبِذَلِكَ أُمِرْتُ وَأَنَا أَوَّلُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ ﴾

"Say (O Muhammad ﷺ): "Verily, my *Salaat* (prayer), my sacrifice, my living, and my dying are for Allah, the Lord of the '*Alameen* (mankind, jinn and all that exists). "He has no partner. And of this I have been commanded, and I am the first of the Muslims." (6:162-163)

⁴ Narrated by Abu-Dawoud, Al-Hakim and he declared it Saheeh, and was declared Saheeh by Al-Albancee.

The declaration of *imaan* is not merely a word that is said, or an idea that is adopted. Rather, *imaan* is knowledge and action, a system of belief and a system of law.

It is to believe in Allah, His angels, His messengers, His books, the Last Day, and Predestination — the good of it and the evil of it.

It is to obey and love Allah, to have *ikhlaas* and to follow the Messenger (ﷺ). It is to love Allah, to fear Him only, to long for His meeting, and to hope for His bounty. It is supplication to Allah, humility, and submission to Him and to Him alone.

It is being thankful for Allah's blessings, and being patient under His trials. It is distancing one's self from worldly desires.

It is prayer, fasting, charity, pilgrimage, and *jihad*. It is slaughtering for, making oaths to, and swearing by Allah and Him alone. It is seeking what is permissible, and avoiding what is prohibited (in one's food, drink, clothing, and earnings).

It is to be righteous to one's parents (*birr al-waalidayn*), to keep one's family ties, to have kind relations with one's neighbors, and to show good manners to all whom one meets (in fulfilling contracts, returning trusts and avoiding wrongdoing).

It is to abstain from *riba*, bribes, gambling, and cheating. It is to seek the ruling of Allah, to commit to it, and to be pleased with that. It is to lower one's gaze and to protect one's chastity. It is *hijab*, and to cover one's *awrah*.

It is to make *da'wah*, to strive in the way of the *deen*, to command the good, to forbid the evil, and to establish Islamic legislation in all corners of the earth.

It is to belong to the Party of the believers - the Party of Allah (ﷻ), and to abandon parties of misguidance (who are the followers of *Shaytaan*).

So overall, *imaan* is to proclaim that a person is *haneef* in all matters. That person is turned towards Allah in expectation, and becomes closer to Allah according to the teachings of His Messenger (ﷺ).

﴿ فَأَقِمَّ وَجْهَكَ لِلدِّينِ حَنِيفًا فِطْرَةَ اللَّهِ الَّتِي فَطَرَ النَّاسَ عَلَيْهَا لَا تَبْدِيلَ لِخَلْقِ اللَّهِ ذَلِكَ الدِّينُ الْقَيِّمُ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴾

"So set you (O Muhammad ﷺ) your face towards the religion (of pure Islamic Monotheism) *Haneef* (worship none but Allah Alone). Allah's *Fitrāh* (i.e. Allah's Islamic Monotheism) with which He has created mankind. No change let there be in *Khalq-illaah* (i.e. the religion of Allah - Islamic Monotheism): that is the straight religion, but most of men know not. (*Tafsir At-Tabarī*)" (30:30)

The Meaning of *Laa Ilaaha Illa Allah*

Allah (ﷻ) said:

﴿ فَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّمَا إِلَهُ الْإِلَهِ ﴾

"So know (O Muhammad ﷺ) that, *Laa ilaaha illa Allah* (none has the right to be worshipped but Allah)." (47:19)

Therefore, it is mandatory upon every adult Muslim to seek knowledge of the meaning of "*laa ilaaha illa Allah*." The "*Ilāh*" (deity), is who is worshipped, to

whom all creation turn for fulfillment of its needs. So the meaning of "*laa ilaaha illa Allah*" is: there is no deity that is worthy of worship except for Allah. The servants do not seek haven in, humble themselves to, or flee to anyone besides Him. Moreover, it is He (the *ilaah*) whom the souls long for, and the hearts incline towards.

Some mistakenly thought that the meaning of the *ilaah* is, "the one who has power over created and invented beings" only. The *mushrikeen* accepted that meaning of *ilaah* and yet, their messengers insisted that they acknowledge that none deserves worship besides Allah. This means that whoever confirms the existence of Allah, but worships someone besides Him, or denies his messengers, is a disbeliever in Allah, and will spend eternity in Hell. Likewise, he who supplicates to other than Allah, or seeks refuge in, or makes sacrifice to anyone besides Allah (after the proofs of the invalidity of these actions have reached him) will suffer the same consequence.

The phrase "*laa ilaaha illa Allah*" includes disbelief in *taaghoot* in its first half – '*laa ilaah*' – 'there is no deity.' These words indicate a denial of the right to worship besides Allah. Moreover, the phrase includes belief in Allah in its second half – '*illa Allah*' – 'except for Allah.'

﴿فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ وَيُؤْمِنْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدِ اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ لَا انْفِصَامَ لَهَا وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ﴾

"Whoever disbelieves in *Taaghoot*, and believes in Allah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower." (2:256)

The scholars have said that "the most trustworthy handhold" in the verse above is *laa ilaaha illa Allah*. The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: "Whoever said *laa ilaaha illa Allah* and disbelieved in what is worshiped besides Allah; his money, and blood have become unlawful (sacred) to the Muslims, and his account is upon Allah."⁵

So the utterance of "*laa ilaaha illa Allah*" is a proof of the speaker's disbelief in whatever is worshiped besides Allah. Therefore, *imaan* in Allah cannot be completed except after disbelief in *taaghoot*. So what is *taaghoot* and what is the meaning of disbelief in *taaghoot*?

⁵ Narrated by Muslim and Ahmed.

The Meaning of *Taaghoot* and its Characteristic of Disbelief

The root word of *taaghoot* is "transgression", meaning a crossing of the boundaries. *Taaghoot* is everything for whose sake the servant has crossed the boundaries of worship. It is anyone who claims for himself any characteristic or right from the rights of *uloohiyyah*, or *ruboobiyyah*. So, *taaghoot* is everything and anything that is worshipped besides Allah, and the worshipper is pleased with it.

There are five main *tawagheet* that are the cause of misguidance to most of mankind.

The first of them is the *shaytaan*, the caller of worship to other than Allah. Allah (ﷻ) said:

﴿أَلَمْ أَعْهَدْ إِلَيْكُمْ يَا بَنِي آدَمَ أَنْ لَا تَعْبُدُوا الشَّيْطَانَ﴾

"Did I not command you, O Children of Adam, that you should not worship *Shaytaan* (Satan)." (36: 60)

So what is the meaning of worshipping the *Shaytaan*? Is there anyone who says that his god is the *Shaytaan*?

Don't we see that everyone, even the disbelievers, insult the *Shaytaan* and curse him? The worship of the *Shaytaan* is obedience to him in: disbelief, *shirk*, and in denying the messengers (*alayhimul-salaam*.) So

whoever accepts that from him, and obeys him in it; then that person has taken the *Shaytaan* in worship besides Allah.

The second of the five main *Tawagheet* is the ruler who rules with other than what Allah has sent down. The definitive proof of that is in the Qur'an. Allah (ﷻ) said:

﴿ أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الَّذِينَ يَزْعُمُونَ أَنَّهُمْ آمَنُوا بِمَا أُنْزِلَ إِلَيْكَ وَمَا أُنْزِلَ مِنْ قَبْلِكَ يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يَتَحَاكَمُوا إِلَى الطَّاغُوتِ وَقَدْ أُمِرُوا أَنْ يَكْفُرُوا بِهِ وَيُرِيدُ الشَّيْطَانُ أَنْ يُضِلَّهُمْ ضَلَالًا بَعِيدًا ﴾

"Have you not seen those (hypocrites) who claim that they believe in that which has been sent down to you, and that which was sent down before you, and they wish to go for judgment (in their disputes) to the *Taaghoot* (false judges) while they have been ordered to reject them. But *Shaytaan* (Satan) wishes to lead them far astray." (4:60)

This verse was revealed in regards to one who wanted to seek the judgment of the Jew, Ka'b ibn Ashraf or some of the fortunetellers. Moreover, it applies to anyone who seeks the judgment of one who rules by other than what Allah has revealed. However, there is no doubt that the one who rules by other than what Allah has revealed has passed the boundaries of *'uboodiyyah*, which require the acceptance of the Law of Allah. And there is no doubt that one who rules for himself has attributed to himself *ruboobiyyah* by performing this legislation.

Allah (ﷻ) said:

﴿ أَلَا لَهُ الْخَلْقُ وَالْأَمْرُ ﴾

"Surely, His is the Creation and Commandment."

(7:54)

And He said:

﴿ أَمْ لَهُمْ شُرَكَاءُ شَرَعُوا لَهُمْ مِّنَ الدِّينِ مَا لَمْ يَأْذَنَ بِهِ اللَّهُ ﴾

"Or have they partners with Allah (false gods) who have instituted for them a religion which Allah has not ordained?" (42: 21)

So Allah named the one who accepts the ruling of other than that of Allah, a disbeliever. And these "lawmakers" are false partners, and Allah has no partners in His creation.

The third of the *tawagheet* are the rabbis, and monks who substituted the Law of Allah. In other words, they are the evil scholars and evil servants who run in pursuit of this worldly life.

Allah (ﷻ) said:

﴿ اتَّخَذُوا أَحْبَارَهُمْ وَرُهْبَانَهُمْ أَرْبَابًا مِّن دُونِ اللَّهِ وَالْمَسِيحَ ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا إِلَهًا وَاحِدًا لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ سُبْحَانَهُ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ ﴾

"They (Jews and Christians) took their rabbis and their monks to be their lords besides Allah (by

obeying them in things which they made lawful or unlawful according to their own desires without being ordered by Allah), and (they also took as their Lord) Messiah, son of Maryam (Mary), while they (Jews and Christians) were commanded (in the Taurat (Torah) and the Injeel (Gospel)) to worship none but One *Ilaah* (God - Allah) *Laa ilaaha illa Huwa* (none has the right to be worshipped but He). Praise and glory be to Him (far above is He) from having the partners they associate (with Him)." (9:31)

The Prophet (ﷺ) explained this verse when he said: "Didn't they make lawful for you the unlawful and make unlawful for you the lawful, and you followed them in that, so that was your worship of them." ⁶

The fourth and the fifth of the *tawagheet* are the magician and the fortuneteller. The magician claims to have the power to harm, to benefit, and to turn the hearts of creation. All of these qualities are qualities of *ruboobiyah*. The fortuneteller claims to have knowledge of the unseen, which Allah (ﷻ) has kept for Himself alone.

﴿وَعِنْدَهُ مَفَاتِحُ الْغَيْبِ لَا يَعْلَمُهَا إِلَّا هُوَ وَيَعْلَمُ مَا فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ وَمَا تَسْقُطُ مِنْ وَرَقَةٍ إِلَّا يَعْلَمُهَا وَلَا حَبَّةٌ فِي ظِلْمَاتِ الْأَرْضِ وَلَا رَطْبٍ وَلَا يَاسٍ إِلَّا فِي كِتَابٍ مُبِينٍ﴾

⁶ Hassan: Narrated by Al-Tirmidhi, Al-Bihaqi in Al-Kabeer, and was declared Hassan by Al-Albanee in Saheeh Al-Tirmidhi.

"And with Him are the keys of the *Ghayb* (all that is hidden), none knows them but He. And He knows whatever there is in the land and in the sea; not a leaf falls, but he knows it. There is not a grain in the darkness of the earth nor anything fresh or dry, but is written in a Clear Record." (6: 59)

Characteristics of disbelieving in the *Taaghoot* are:

- (a) To say it plainly with one's tongue and to believe in the falsity of what they claimed for themselves from the characteristics and rights of the One True God; who has no partners,
- (b) To know that when one says, "*laa ilaaha illa Allah*," that it means to deny all that is worshipped besides Allah. Disbelief in the *taaghoot* further implies that one's actions be compatible with proclaiming and belief.
- (c) To not obey the *Shaytaan* in what he calls to of disbelief and sins.
- (d) To not seek judgment from whoever rules with other than which Allah has revealed.
- (e) To not follow whoever has substituted the Law of Allah.
- (f) To not go to magicians or fortunetellers.

The completion of all of this is *jihad*, by his tongue, hand, money, and life to prove false the worship of *tawagheet*, to eradicate it from the face of the earth, and to bring the servants from the worship of

servants like themselves to the worship of the Lord of all of the servants.

Allah (ﷻ) said:

﴿ وَقَاتِلُوهُمْ حَتَّى لَا تَكُونَ فِتْنَةٌ وَيَكُونَ الدِّينُ كُلُّهُ لِلَّهِ ﴾

"And fight them until there is no more *Fitnah* (disbelief and polytheism, i.e. worshipping others besides Allah) and the religion (worship) will all be for Allah Alone (in the whole of the world)."
(8: 39)

Al-Wala' Wal-Bara' (Alliance and Disavowal): From the Essence of the Meanings of Laa Ilaaha Illa Allah

The Prophet (ﷺ) said: "The firmest handhold of *imaan* is love for the sake of Allah and hatred for the sake of Allah."⁷

Is it possible for a believer to love Allah and worship Him, as well as to hate the believers and take them as enemies without helping them? This is unimaginable, except from one who does not understand the truth of *imaan*.

Allah (ﷻ) said:

⁷ Hassan: Narrated by Al-Tabarani in Al-Kabeer, and was declared Hassan by Al-Albanee in Saheeh Al-Jame' (2536).

﴿ لَا تَجِدُ قَوْمًا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ يُوَادُّونَ مَنْ حَادَّ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَلَوْ كَانُوا آبَاءَهُمْ أَوْ أَبْنَاءَهُمْ أَوْ إِخْوَانَهُمْ أَوْ عَشِيرَتَهُمْ أُولَئِكَ كَتَبَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمُ الْإِيمَانَ وَأَيَّدَهُمْ بِرُوحٍ مِّنْهُ وَيُدْخِلُهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرَى مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ أُولَئِكَ حِزْبُ اللَّهِ أَلَا إِنَّ حِزْبَ اللَّهِ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ ﴾

"You (O Muhammad ﷺ) will not find any people who believe in Allah and the Last Day, making friendship with those who oppose Allah and His Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ), even though they were their fathers or their sons or their brothers or their kindred (people). For such He has written Faith in their hearts, and strengthened them with *Ruh* (proofs, light and true guidance) from Himself. And He will admit them to Gardens (Paradise) under which rivers flow to dwell therein (forever). Allah is pleased with them, and they with Him. They are the Party of Allah. Verily, it is the Party of Allah that will be the successful." (58: 22)

And He said:

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَتَّخِذُوا الْيَهُودَ وَالنَّصَارَى أَوْلِيَاءَ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ بَعْضٍ وَمَنْ يَتَوَلَّهُمْ مِنْكُمْ فَإِنَّهُ مِنْهُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ ﴾

"O you who believe! Take not the Jews and the Christians as *Auliya*' (friends, protectors, helpers), they are but *Auliya*' of each other. And if any amongst you takes them (as *Auliya*'), then surely

he is one of them. Verily, Allah guides not those people who are the *Zalimoon* (polytheists and wrong-doers and unjust)." (5: 51)

So, if it was said: "But don't the Jews and Christians believe in God?"

Then we will say: "We will not answer you; but rather, the Qur'an will answer".

Allah (ﷻ) said:

﴿ لَقَدْ كَفَرَ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ ﴾

"Surely, they have disbelieved who say: "Allah is the Messiah ('Isa (Jesus)), son of Maryam (Mary)." (5:72)

And He said:

﴿ لَقَدْ كَفَرَ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ ثَالِثُ ثَلَاثَةٍ ﴾

"Surely, disbelievers are those who said: "Allah is the third of the three (in a Trinity)." (5: 73)

And Allah (ﷻ) said:

﴿ وَقَالَتِ الْيَهُودُ غُرُورًا ابْنُ اللَّهِ وَقَالَتِ النَّصَارَى الْمَسِيحُ ابْنُ اللَّهِ ذَلِكَ قَوْلُهُمْ بِآفْوَاهِهِمْ يُضَاهَوْنَ قَوْلَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ قَبْلُ قَاتَلَهُمُ اللَّهُ أَتَى يُؤْمَكُونَ ﴿٥٦﴾ اتَّخَذُوا أَحْبَارَهُمْ

وَرُفَعَاتِهِمْ أَرْبَابًا مِّنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ وَالْمَسِيحَ ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا إِلَهًا وَاحِدًا لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ سُبْحَانَهُ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ ﴿٩٠﴾

"And the Jews say: 'Uzayr (Ezra) is the son of Allah, and the Christians say: Messiah is the son of Allah. That is their saying with their mouths, resembling the saying of those who disbelieved aforetime. Allah's Curse be on them, how they are deluded away from the truth! .They (Jews and Christians) took their rabbis and their monks to be their lords besides Allah (by obeying them in things which they made lawful or unlawful according to their own desires without being ordered by Allah), and (they also took as their Lord) Messiah, son of Maryam (Mary), while they (Jews and Christians) were commanded (in the Taurat (Torah) and the Injeel (Gospel)) to worship none but One *Ilaah* (God - Allah) *Laa ilaaha illa Huwa* (none has the right to be worshipped but He)⁽⁴⁾. Praise and glory be to Him (far above is He) from having the partners they associate (with Him)." (9:30-31)

The Prophet (ﷺ) said: "By the One in whose hand is my soul, there is no Jew or Christian from this nation that heard about me and then died without believing in what I have been sent with, except that he will enter the Hellfire."⁸

And if it was said: "Aren't they *Ahlul-Kitaab*?" Then we reply:

⁸ Narrated by Muslim and Ahmed.

Allah (ﷻ) said:

﴿ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ وَالْمُشْرِكِينَ فِي تَارِجِهِمْ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أُولَئِكَ هُمْ شَرُّ الْبَرِيَّةِ ﴾

"Verily, those who disbelieve (in the religion of Islam, the Qur'an and Prophet Muhammad ﷺ) from among the people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians) and *Al-Mushrikoon* will abide in the Fire of Hell. They are the worst of creatures." (98: 6)

So whoever disbelieved in Muhammad (ﷺ), then he is a disbeliever even if he was from *Ahlul-Kitaab*.

And if it was said to us: "Isn't the *deen* for Allah and the country for everyone?"

We reply: No. The *deen* is for Allah, as is all of the earth, and not just the country alone. Allah, the Lord of the Worlds has no partners in that.

Allah (ﷻ) said:

﴿ إِنَّ الْأَرْضَ لِلَّهِ يُورِثُهَا مَنْ يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ وَالْعَاقِبَةُ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ ﴾

"Verily, the earth is Allah's. He gives it as a heritage to whom He wills of His slaves; and the (blessed) end is for the *Muttaqoon* (the pious)." (7:128)

And the following clear verses from *suratul-Mumtahinah* are enough to prove the futility of national and patriotic ties:

Allah (ﷻ) said:

﴿ قَدْ كَانَتْ لَكُمْ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ فِي إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَالَّذِينَ مَعَهُ إِذْ قَالُوا لِقَوْمِهِمْ إِنَّا بُرَاءُ مِنْكُمْ وَمِمَّا تَعْبُدُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ كَكُرْبَاتٍ بَيْنَكُمْ وَبَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَهُمُ الْعَدَاوَةُ وَالْبَغْضَاءُ أَبَدًا حَتَّى تُؤْمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَحْدَهُ إِنَّا قَوْلَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ لِأَبِيهِ لَأَسْتَغْفِرَنَّ لَكَ وَمَا أَمْلِكُ لَكَ مِنَ اللَّهِ مِنْ شَيْءٍ رَبَّنَا عَلَيْكَ تَوَكَّلْنَا وَإِلَيْكَ أَكْبَنَّا وَإِلَيْكَ الْمَصِيرُ ﴾

"Indeed there has been an excellent example for you in Ibraheem (Abraham) and those with him, when they said to their people: "Verily, we are free from you and whatever you worship besides Allah: we have rejected you, and there has started between us and you hostility and hatred for ever until you believe in Allah Alone" - except the saying of Ibraheem (Abraham) to his father: "Verily, I will ask forgiveness (from Allah) for you, but I have no power to do anything for you before Allah.⁽²⁾" Our Lord! In You (Alone) we put our trust, and to You (Alone) we turn in repentance, and to You (Alone) is (our) final Return." (60:4)

And if they say: "Didn't Allah (ﷻ) say:

﴿ وَلَتَجِدَنَّ أَقْرَبَهُمْ مَوَدَّةً لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا الَّذِينَ قَالُوا إِنَّا فِصَارَىٰ ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ فِئْتَانٌ مِّنْ قَبْلِ ۖ وَأَن تَتَّبِعُهُمُ الْغَايَةُ ۖ إِنَّهُمْ مُّصِيبُونَ ﴾

"And you will find the nearest in love to the believers (Muslims) those who say: "We are Christians." That is because amongst them are

priests and monks, and they are not proud."(5: 82)

We say to them: complete the verse, and do not disconnect it so you would know who is meant by this verse, Allah (ﷻ) said:

﴿ وَإِذَا سَمِعُوا مَا أُنْزِلَ إِلَى الرَّسُولِ تَرَىٰ أَعْيُنُهُمْ تَفِيضُ مِنَ الدَّمْعِ مِمَّا عَرَفُوا مِنَ الْحَقِّ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا آمَنَّا فَاكْتُبْنَا مَعَ الشَّاهِدِينَ ﴾

"And when they (who call themselves Christians) listen to what has been sent down to the Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ), you see their eyes overflowing with tears because of the truth they have recognized. They say: "Our Lord! We believe; so write us down among the witnesses." (5: 83)

This verse was revealed regarding those of them who believed, like *An-Najaashi* and others. As for those who did not believe, then Allah (ﷻ) has said about them:

﴿ قَاتِلُوا الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَلَا بِالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَلَا يُحَرِّمُونَ مَا حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ وَلَا يَدِينُونَ دِينَ الْحَقِّ مِنَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ حَتَّىٰ يُعْطُوا الْجِزْيَةَ عَن يَدٍ وَهُمْ صَاغِرُونَ ﴾

"Fight against those who (1) believe not in Allah, (2) nor in the Last Day, (3) nor forbid that which has been forbidden by Allah and His Messenger Muhammad ﷺ (4) and those who acknowledge not the religion of truth (i.e. Islam) among the people of

the Scripture (Jews and Christians), until they pay the *Jizyah* with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued." (9: 29)

And from the clearest pictures of the prohibited *muwaala'* with the disbelievers that is their imitation, whether it is apparent or hidden. The Prophet (ﷺ) said: "Whoever imitates a people is from them."⁹

An example of this is participation in the celebration of their false holidays that are from the symbols of their false *deen*.

Allah (ﷻ) said:

﴿وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَشْهَدُونَ الزُّورَ وَإِذَا مَرُّوا بِاللَّغْوِ مَرُّوا كِرَامًا﴾

"And those who do not bear witness to falsehood, and if they pass by some evil play or evil talk, they pass by it with dignity." (25: 72)

The scholars said in their interpretation of this verse, that this means the holidays of the disbelievers.

⁹ Narrated by Abu-Dawoud, Ahmed, Al-Tabarani in Al-Awsat, Ibn Hibban and he declared it Saheeh, and was declared Saheeh by Al-Albanee in Saheeh Al-Jame'.

Islam is a Religion of Forgiveness and Justice

Yes, but surely there is a difference between love and contentment to religions other than Islam; and between justice and forgiveness.

The Muslim does not wrong anyone, even if he is a disbeliever, he does not deceive anyone, and he does not break a promise. He is good to whoever does not wage war against him and his *deen*, even though he hates him for his disbelief. This is righteousness and justice, not love, alliance, and imitation. Moreover, it is permissible for the Muslim to participate in buying, selling, renting, and gift exchanging with the disbelievers to attune them towards Islam. It is not, however, permissible for him to love them, to help them over the believers, or to praise them upon their falsehood. Nor is it permissible to follow them, to obey them, or to take them as friends. The Prophet (ﷺ) said: "Do not take as a companion except for a believer."¹⁰

¹⁰ Narrated by Abu-Dawoud, Al-Tirmidhi, and was declared Hassan by Al-Albanee.

Are We Extremists?

We have placed before you our 'aqeedah in the word of *tawheed* – "*laa ilaaha illa Allah*" - with clear proofs from the Qur'an and the authentic *Sunnah*. Therefore, it is not for anyone to attribute to Islam any speech or action except with proofs from the Qur'an and Sunnah which is understood according to the understanding of the *Salaf* of this *ummah* and its scholars. Is the one who believes in that an extremist?

If that is true, then we are, by Allah, upon the extremism that the Qur'an and Sunnah is upon, even if we oppose the entire world in that. And the meeting tomorrow is in front of Allah.

Allah (ﷻ) said:

﴿ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ يَفْصِلُ بَيْنَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ ﴾

"Neither your relatives nor your children will benefit you on the Day of Resurrection (against Allah). He will judge between you. And Allah is the All-Seer of what you do." (60: 3)

So look for yourself where you would be tomorrow; you are deciding it today.

Allah (ﷻ) said:

﴿ وَإِنَّ جُنَدَنَا لَهُمُ الْغَالِبُونَ ﴾

"And that Our hosts! They verily would be the victors." (37: 173)

Glossary

In order of mention...

***da'wah* -**

to call to the religion of Islam.

***laa ilaaha illa Allah* -**

None has the right to be worshipped but Allah. It is the first fundamental principle of Islam. It has to be followed by "Muhammad-ur-Rasul-allah" – Muhammad ﷺ is the messenger of Allah.

***alayhimul-salaam* -**

peace be upon them.

***tawheed* -**

Tawheed means declaring Allah to be the only God. It has three aspects:

1. Oneness of the Lordship of Allah; Tawheed-ar-ruboobiyah: To believe that there is only one Lord for all the universe, and He is his Creator, Organizer, Planner, Sustainer, and the Giver of security and that is Allah.
2. Oneness of the worship of Allah; Tawheed-al-uloohiyyah: To believe that none has the right to be worshipped (e.g. praying, invoking, asking for help (from the unseen), swearing, slaughtering sacrifices, giving charity, fasting, pilgrimage, etc.), but Allah.
3. Oneness of the Names and the Qualities of Allah; Tawheed-al-Asmaa' was-Sifaat: To believe that:
 - a. we must not name or qualify Allah except with what He or His messenger ﷺ has named or qualified Him;
 - b. none can be named or qualified with the Names or Qualifications of Allah; e.g. Al-Kareem;
 - c. we must believe in all the qualities of Allah which Allah has stated in his Book (The

Qur'an) or mentioned through His messenger Muhammad ﷺ without changing their meaning or ignoring them completely or twisting the meanings or giving resemblance to any of the created things; e.g. Allah is present over His throne as mentioned in the Qur'an and as the prophet ﷺ described in his hadeeth that Allah comes down in the first heaven during the last third of the night and also during the day of 'Arafah. He is with us by His Knowledge, Not by his personal self. "There is nothing unto Him, and He is the All-Hearing, All-Seeing." (al-Qur'an 42:11) This noble verse proves that Allah has the quality of hearing and sight without likening it (or giving resemblance) to others; and likewise, He also says: "To one whom I have created with both my hands," (38:75); and He also says "the hand of Allah is over their hands." (48:10) This confirms the two hands of Allah, but there is no similarity for them. This is the faith of all true believers, and was the faith of the prophets of Allah, from Noah, Ibraheem, Musa, 'Isa, and the last prophet Muhammad ﷺ. It is not as some people think that Allah is present everywhere, here, there,

and even the breasts of men. These three aspects of tawheed are included in the meanings of *laa ilaaha illa Allah*. It is also essential to follow Allah's messenger Muhammad ﷺ and it is part of tawheed *al uloohiyyah*. This is included in the meanings "I testify that Muhammad ﷺ is the messenger of Allah" and this means, "None has the right to be followed after Allah's book, but Allah's messenger ﷺ."

<i>imaan -</i>	faith, belief.
<i>ikhlaas -</i>	sincerity in worshipping Allah alone.
<i>jihaad -</i>	holy fighting in the –cause of Allah or any other kind of effort to make Allah's word (i.e. Islam) superior. Jihaad is regarded as one of the fundamentals of Islam.
<i>birr al-waalidayn -</i>	to be pious and righteous to one's parents.
<i>riba -</i>	usury, which is one of two kinds. 1) <i>riba Nasee'ah</i> – i.e. interest on lent money. 2) <i>riba fadl</i> – i.e. taking a superior thing of the same kind of goods by giving more of the same kind of goods of inferior quality. e.g. dates of superior quality for dates of inferior quality in greater amount. Islam strictly forbids all kinds of usury.
<i>hijaab -</i>	a long dress prescribed for Muslim women to cover their whole body from head to feet.
<i>'awrah -</i>	the part of the body which is illegal to expose to others.
<i>deen -</i>	religion (i.e. – Islam).
<i>shaytaan -</i>	(singular) Satan; <i>shayateen</i> (plural).
<i>haneef -</i>	the one who follows pure Islamic monotheism (worshipping Allah alone and nothing else.)
<i>mushrikeen -</i>	those who worship others along with Allah.

<i>taaghoot</i> -	The word taaghoot covers a wide range of meanings. It means anything worshipped other than the real God, Allah: i.e. all the false deities. It may be Satan, devils, idols, stones, sun, stars, angels, human beings, e.g. messengers of Allah, who were falsely worshipped and taken as taaghoot. Likewise saints, graves, rulers, leaders are falsely worshipped, and wrongly followed. p. <i>tawagheet</i>
<i>uloohiyyah</i> -	see <i>tawheed</i> above.
<i>ruboobiyyah</i> -	see <i>tawheed</i> above.
<i>shirk</i> -	polytheism and it is to worship others along with Allah.
<i>'uboodiyyah</i> -	worship.
<i>Al-Wala' Wal-Bara'</i> -	alliance and disavowal.
<i>Ahlul-Kitaab</i> -	the People of the Book, i.e. the Christians and the Jews.
<i>Suratul-Mumtahinah</i> -	a chapter of the Holy Qur'an.
<i>An-Najaashi</i> -	the king of Abyssinian at the time of the first migration of the Muslims.
<i>muwaala'</i> -	alliance.
<i>'aqeedah</i> -	belief.
<i>sunnah</i> -	the legal way or ways, orders, acts of worship and statements of the Prophet ﷺ that have become models to be followed by Muslim.
<i>salaf</i> -	the early pious predecessors.
<i>ummah</i> -	nation; meaning, the nation of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.