

خذ عقيدتك من الكتاب والسنة
الصحيحة

Take Your Beliefs
from the Qur'aan and Sunnah

By

Muhammad Ibn Jameel Zainoo

Teacher in Dar Al-Hadeeth Al-Khairiyyah,
Makkah Al-Mukarramah

In the name of Allah, the Most Compassionate,
the Most Merciful

Verily, all praise is due to Allaah, we praise Him and we seek His Aid and we ask His Forgiveness and we seek refuge with Allaah from the wickedness of ourselves and the evil of our deeds. Whomsoever Allaah guides, there is none can misguide him and whomsoever Allaah sends astray, there is none can guide him.

And I testify that none is worthy of worship except Allaah, Alone, without partners and I testify that Muhammad is His slave and His Messenger.

As for what follows, these are important questions in 'aqeedah which I have answered along with the evidences from the Qur'aan and hadeeth, so that the reader may rest assured that the answers are correct, because the belief in tawheed is the foundation of mankind's happiness in the life of this world and in the Hereafter.¹

¹ These questions were reviewed with the author's other book, "Islamic Creed from the Quran and the Authentic Sunnah," mistakes were corrected, and some questions were added therefrom.

By Allaah, I ask that He makes this work of benefit to the Muslims and that He make it pure for His sake.

Muhammad Ibn Jameel Zainoo

Meaning of Islam and Faith

What is Islam?

A1: Islam is submission to Allah through monotheism, obedience to Him through following His commands, and avoiding associating partners with Him. Allah, the Most High, said,

{بَلَىٰ مَنْ أَسْلَمَ وَجْهَهُ لِلَّهِ وَهُوَ مُحْسِنٌ فَلَهُ أَجْرُهُ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِ وَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ}

"On the contrary, whoever submits himself to Allah and is a doer of good will have his reward with his Lord. They will have no fear, nor will they grieve." (Surat Al-Baqarah: 112)

The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said,

"الإسلام أن تشهد أن لا إله إلا الله وأن محمدًا رسول الله، وتقيم الصلاة، وتؤتي الزكاة، وتصوم رمضان، وتحج البيت إن استطعت إليه سبيلًا".

"Islam is that you testify that there is no god worthy of worship except Allah and that Muhammad is His Messenger (ﷺ), perform prayers, pay the zakah, fast during Ramadan, and perform pilgrimage to the House, provided you have resources of making journey to it." (Narrated by Muslim)

Q2: What is faith?

A2: Faith is belief in the heart, declaration by the tongue, and action by the limbs and body parts. Allah, the Most High, said,

{قَالَتِ الْأَعْرَابُ آمَنَّا قُلْ لَمْ تُؤْمِنُوا وَلَكِنْ قُولُوا أَسْلَمْنَا وَلَمَّا يَدْخُلِ الْإِيمَانُ فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ}

"The Bedouins say, 'We have believed.' Say, 'You have not believed, but say, 'We have submitted,' for faith has not yet entered your hearts.'" (Al-Hujurat: 14)

The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said,

"الإيمان: أن تؤمن بالله، وملائكته وكتبه، ورسله، واليوم الآخر، وتؤمن بالقدر خيره وشره"

"Faith is to believe in Allah, His angels, His books, His messengers, the Last Day, and to believe in divine destiny, good and bad." (Narrated by Muslim)

Al-Hasan Al-Basri said: "Faith is not by wishful thinking or outward adornment, but it is what settles in the heart and is confirmed by action."

Q3: What is your god?

A3: Allah is my Lord who created and nurtured me along with all creatures with His blessings. He is the One I worship. I have no deity besides Him. Allah, the Most High, said,

{الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ}

"All praise be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds." (Surat Al-Faatihah: 2)

Q4: What is your religion?

A4: My religion is Islam, which the Quran and Sunnah indicate and impose to worship and obey Allah. Allah, the Almighty, said:

{إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ}

"The true religion with Allah is Islam." (Surat Aal-'Imran: 19)

5: Who is your Prophet?

A5: My Prophet is Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) who was born in Mecca and sent as a Prophet and Messenger to all mankind. He is the son of Abdullah, the son of Abdul-Muttaieb, the son of Hashim. His mother is Aaminah bint Wahb. Allah, the Almighty, said:

{قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ جَمِيعًا}

{Say [O Prophet], "O people, I am the Messenger of Allah to you all."} (Surat Al-A'raf: 158)

He is the Seal of the Prophets and there is no prophet or messenger after him. Allah, the Almighty, said:

{مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ أَبَا أَحَدٍ مِنْ رِجَالِكُمْ وَلَكِنْ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ وَخَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ}

"Muhammad is not the father of [any] one of your men, but [he is] the Messenger of Allāh and seal [i.e., last] of the prophets." (Surat Al-Ahzab: 40)

He became a Prophet when this verse was revealed to him. Allah, the Almighty, says:

{اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ}

"Recite in the name of your Lord who created."
(Surat Al-'Alaq: 1)

And he became a Messenger when these verses were revealed on him,

{يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُدَّثِّرُ (1) قُمْ فَأَنْذِرْ}

"O you who covers himself [with a garment].

Arise and warn." (Surat Al-Muddaththar: 1-2)

The Quran started to be revealed to him when he was forty years old. He immigrated to Media thirteen years after being a prophet, stayed there for ten years, and passed away at the age of sixty-three. Allah's oneness was the first thing he called people to, which is the declaration: "Lā ilāha illa Allah" (There is no deity worthy of worship except Allah). His God commanded him to call upon Him alone and not to associate anyone with Him in worship, as the polytheists of his time used to do. His God said to him:

{قُلْ إِنَّمَا أَدْعُو رَبِّي وَلَا أُشْرِكُ بِهِ أَحَدًا}

"Say, [O Muḥammad], "I only invoke my Lord and do not associate with Him anyone." (Surat Al-Jinn: 20)

The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said,

"الدعاء هو العبادة."

"Supplication is the worship." (Narrated by Termidhy who said, "A good and authentic hadith)

Thus, Muslims are commanded to supplicate Allah alone and not anyone else even if it is a prophet or a righteous person, for Allah alone is the Powerful while others especially the dead are powerless to remove harm from themselves. Allah, the Almighty, says:

{وَالَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ لَا يَخْلُقُونَ شَيْئًا وَهُمْ يُخْلَقُونَ (20) أَمْوَاتٌ غَيْرُ أَحْيَاءٍ وَمَا يَشْعُرُونَ أَيَّانَ يُبْعَثُونَ}

"And those they invoke other than Allāh create nothing, and they [themselves] are created.

They are [in fact] dead, not alive, and they do not perceive when they will be resurrected." (Surat An-Nahl: 20-21)

The Right of Allaah Upon His Slaves

Q.1 Why did Allaah create us?

A. He created us to worship Him and not to associate any partners with Him. The evidence for this is in the Words of Allaah, Most High, in Surat Adh-Dhaariyaat:

{وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ}

"I have not created the jinn and mankind except to worship Me." (Surat Adh-Dhariyaat: 56)

And in the words of the Prophet:

«حَقُّ اللَّهِ عَلَى الْعِبَادِ أَنْ يَعْبُدُوهُ، وَلَا يَشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا»

"The right of Allaah upon the slaves is that they worship Him and do not associate any partners with Him." (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

Q.2 What is 'ibaadah?

A. It is a comprehensive term for all those words and deeds which are loved by Allaah, such as du'aa` (supplication), salaah (prayer), thabh (halaal slaughter), etc. Allaah says:

﴿قُلْ إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ﴾

"Say: Truly, my prayers, my sacrifice (i.e. slaughter), my life, and death are for Allaah, the Lord of the worlds." (Surat Al-An'aam:162)

The word "nusuky" means slaughtering animals as a sacrifice.

And the Prophet:

«قال تعالى: وَمَا تَقَرَّبَ إِلَيَّ عَبْدِي بِشَيْءٍ أَحَبَّ إِلَيَّ مما افترضته عليه»

Allaah, Most High, says: "My slave does not come nearer to Me with anything more beloved to Me than that which I have enjoined upon Him." (A Hadeeth Qudsiyy, narrated by Al-Bukhaari)

Q.3 How do we worship Allaah?

A. We worship Him in the way in which He and His Messenger commanded us to do. Allaah, Most High, says:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَلَا تُبْطِلُوا ءَعْمَالَكُمْ﴾

"O you who believe! Obey Allaah and obey the Messenger and do not render vain your deeds." (Surat Muhammad: 33)

And the Prophet said:

«مَنْ عَمَلَ عَمَلًا لَيْسَ عَلَيْهِ أَمْرُنَا فَهُوَ رَدٌّ»

“Whoever performs a deed which is not in conformity with this Religion of ours will have it rejected.” It means it is unacceptable. (Narrated by Muslim)

Q.4 Should we worship Allaah with fear and hope?

A. Yes, that is how we should worship Him. Allaah, Most High, says describing the Believers:¹

﴿يَدْعُونَ رَبَّهُمْ خَوْفًا وَطَمَعًا﴾

They call upon their Lord in fear and hope.”
(Surat As-Sajdah:16)

And the Prophet said:

«أَسْأَلُ اللَّهَ الْجَنَّةَ، وَأَعُوذُ بِهِ مِنَ النَّارِ»

“I ask Allaah for Paradise and I seek refuge with Him from the Fire.” (An authentic hadeeth narrated by Abu Dawood)

Q5: What is the ihsan in worship?

A. Ihsaan is to worship Allaah with the knowledge that He sees you. Allaah, Most High, says:

﴿الَّذِي يَرَبُّكَ حِينَ تَقُومُ ۚ ۲۱۸ وَتَقْلُبُكَ فِي السُّجُودِ﴾

“Who sees you (O Muhammad,) when you stand (in the night prayer)

¹ We also worship Him out of love. The believer worships Allah with love, fear, and hope.

and your movements among those who prostrate (in the five daily prayers)." (Surat Ash-Shu'araa':218-219)

And the Prophet said:

«الإحسان أن تعبد الله كأنك تراه، فإن لم تكن تراه فإنه يراك»

"Ihsaan is to worship Allaah as though you see Him, for though you do not see Him, verily, He sees you."
(Narrated by Muslim)

Forms of Tawheed and Its Benefits

Why did Allaah send the Messengers?

A. He sent them to call people to the worship of Allaah and to reject the worship of anything besides Him. Allaah, Most High, says:

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

"And We have surely sent to every people a Messenger (proclaiming) worship Allaah and avoid the taaghoot." (Surat An-Nahl:36)

Taaghoot: All that is worshipped besides Allaah and is happy to be worshipped, or every person who calls others to worship other than Allaah; and every taaghoot is a devil.

And the Prophet said:

«والأنبياء إخوةٌ ودينهم واحد»

"The Prophets are brothers... and their Religion is one." (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

Q.7 What is the tawheed of Lordship?

A. It is to affirm His Oneness in all His works, such as creation, His disposal (of the affairs of the universe), etc. Allaah, Most High, says:

﴿الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ﴾

{All praise be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds.}
(Surat Al-Fatihah: 2)

And the Prophet said:

«أَنْتَ رَبُّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ»

“You (O Allaah,) are the Lord of the heavens and the earth.” (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

Q.8 What is the tawheed of worship?

A. It is to devote exclusively to Him all our acts of worship, such as du’aa` (i.e. supplication), halaal slaughter, vows, etc. Allaah, Most High, says:

﴿وَالْهَيْكُمُ إِلَهٌ وَجَدَ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ﴾

"And your God is one God. None has the right to be worshipped but He, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful." (Surat Al-Baqarah: 163)

And the Prophet said:

«فَلْيَكُنْ أَوَّلُ مَا تَدْعُوهُمْ إِلَيْهِ، شَهَادَةُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ»

“Let the first thing to which you invite them be (the testimony): Laa ilaaha Illallaah (None has the right to be worshipped except Allaah.” (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

In Al-Bukhaari’s version:

«إِلَى أَنْ يُوْحِدُوا اللَّهَ».

“...to affirm Allaah’s Oneness.”

Q4: What is the purpose of monotheism of lordship and worship?

A4: The purpose is to make people recognize their God's greatness so they deeply believe, obey, and worship Him alone. Thus, this faith is translated into action in real life to establish the Islamic state.

What is the tawheed of the Names and Attributes (of Allaah)?

It is to affirm the Names and Attributes by which Allaah has described Himself in His Book and those by which His Messenger has described Him in the authentic hadeeths, in truth, without allegory, without changing the meaning, without comparison with His creation and without negating them, such as His Ascension over the Throne, or His Descent (to the lowest heaven) or His Hand – in a manner befitting His Perfection, as He, Most High, says:¹

﴿لَيْسَ كَمِثْلِهِ شَيْءٌ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ﴾

"There is none like unto Him, and He is the All-hearing, All-seeing." (Surat Ash-Shura: 11)

And the Prophet said:

«يَنْزِلُ اللَّهُ فِي كُلِّ لَيْلَةٍ إِلَى سَمَاءِ الدُّنْيَا..»

¹ Ta'wil here means to divert the word from its apparent meaning to something that contradicts it. This ta'wil goes against what the word indicates and clarifies. Referring to this as ta'wil was not known among the early generations (the Salaf); rather, it is a distortion which was the author (may Allah have mercy on him) intended.

“Allaah descends each night to the lowest heaven.”
(Narrated by Muslim)

(He descends in a manner befitting His Majesty without resembling any member of His creation).

Where is Allaah?

A. Allaah is above the Throne, over the seventh heaven. He, Most High, says:

﴿الرَّحْمَنُ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ اسْتَوَى﴾

"The Most Beneficent has istawaa over the Throne." (Surat Taa Haa: 5)

Istawaa: That is “ascended,” as reported by Al-Bukhaari.

And the Prophet said:

«إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَتَبَ كِتَابًا ... فَهُوَ عِنْدَهُ فَوْقَ الْعَرْشِ»

“Verily, Allaah wrote a Book... and it is with Him above the Throne.” (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

Is Allaah with us?

He is with us by His Hearing, His Seeing, and His Knowledge. Allaah, Most High, says:

﴿قَالَ لَا تَخَافُ أَتَيْنِي مَعَكُمْ أَسْمَعُ وَأَرَى﴾

"He (Allaah) said: “Do not be afraid, I am with you both, hearing and seeing.” (Surat Taa Haa: 46)

And the Prophet said:

«إِنَّكُمْ تَدْعُونَ سَمِيعًا قَرِيبًا وَهُوَ مَعَكُمْ»

“Verily, you are calling upon One Who hears, Who is near and is with you.” (i.e. by His Knowledge) (Narrated by Muslim)

What is the benefit of tawheed?

A. It is salvation from punishment in the Hereafter, guidance in this world, and forgiveness of sins. Allaah, Most High, says:

﴿الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَلَمْ يَلْبِسُوا إِيمَانَهُمْ بِظُلْمٍ أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمُ الْآمَنُ وَهُمْ مُهْتَدُونَ﴾

"Those who believe and confuse not their belief with wrongdoing (i.e. shirk) – for them (only) is there security (from punishment) and they are (rightly) guided." (Surat Al-An'aam: 82)

"With wrongdoing" means polytheism.

And the Prophet said:

«حق العباد على الله أن لا يُعَذِّبَ مَنْ لَا يَشْرِكُ بِهِ شَيْئًا»

“The right of the slaves upon Allaah is that He will not punish those who do not worship others besides Him.” (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

Conditions for Allaah's Acceptance of Our Deeds

What are the conditions for the acceptance of our deeds?

The conditions for the acceptance of deeds with Allaah are three:

1. Faith and belief in Allaah and affirmation of His Oneness.

Allaah says:

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ كَانَتْ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتُ الْفِرْدَوْسِ نُزُلًا﴾

"Verily, those who believe and work righteous deeds will have the Gardens of Al-Firdaws for their abode." (Surat Al-Kahf: 107)

And the Prophet said:

«قُلْ آمَنْتُ بِاللّٰهِ، ثُمَّ اسْتَقِمَّ»

"Say: "I believe in Allaah," then be straightforward." (Narrated by Muslim)

2. Sincerity which means to dedicate all one's deeds purely and solely for Allaah, without showing off and without seeking repute from men. Allaah, Most High, says:

﴿فَاعْبُدِ اللَّهَ مُخْلِصًا لَهُ الدِّينَ﴾

"So call upon Allaah with sincere devotion to Him." (Surat Ghafer: 40)

3. That the deeds should be in accordance with that which Allaah's Messenger brought (i.e. the Sunnah). Allaah says:

﴿وَمَا ءَاتَاكُمُ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ فَانْتَهُوا﴾

"So whatsoever the Messenger gives you, accept it and whatever he forbids you, abstain (from it)." (Surat Al-Hashr: 7)

And the Prophet said:

«مَنْ عَمِلَ عَمَلًا لَيْسَ عَلَيْهِ أَمْرُنَا فَهُوَ رَدٌّ»

"Whoever does any deed (in religion) which we have not commanded, it will be rejected." (Narrated by Muslim) (Narrated by Muslim)

Loyalty and Disavowal in Islam

Q1: What is loyalty and disavowal in Islam?

Loyalty is to love and support Allah, His Messenger, the Companions, and the monotheists.

Disavowal is to detest those opposing Allah, His Messenger, the Companions, and the monotheists such as the disbelievers, polytheists, and innovators who seek healing, provision, or guidance from other than Allah. Indeed, every monotheist who adheres to the divine commands and avoids prohibitions has to be loved and supported. And everyone who opposes that has to be detested and opposed for the sake of Allah. He also has to be faced with the tongue and the heart according to one's ability. Everyone under this section has to be detested according to his disobedience.

(1) Allah, the Almighty, said,

{وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتُ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ بَعْضٍ}

"The believing men and believing women are allies of one another." [Surat At-Tawbah: 71]

(2) The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said, "The strongest bond of faith is to love for the sake of Allah and hate for the sake of Allah." (Graded as hasan (good) by Sh. Albani due to its multiple chains of transmission)

(3) The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said,

"من أحبَّ الله، وأبغض لله، وأعطى لله، ومنع لله، فقد استكمل الإيمان"

"If anyone loves for Allah's sake, hates for Allah's sake, gives for Allah's sake, and withholds for Allah's sake, he has perfected faith." (Narrated by Abu Daoud and others)

(4) The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said,

"إن من عباد الله لأناساً ما هم بأنبياء ولا شهداء، يَغْبِطُهُمُ الْأَنْبِيَاءُ وَالشَّهَدَاءُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ بِمَكَانَتِهِمْ مِنْ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى، قَالُوا: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ تُخْبِرُنَا مَنْ هُمْ؟ قَالَ: "هَمْ قَوْمٌ تَحَابُّوا بِرُوحِ اللَّهِ عَلَى غَيْرِ أَرْحَامٍ بَيْنَهُمْ، وَلَا أَمْوَالٍ يَتَعَاطَوْنَهَا، فَوَاللَّهِ إِنْ وَجَّهَهُمْ لَنُورٍ، وَإِنَّهُمْ لَعَلَى نُورٍ، لَا يَخَافُونَ إِذَا خَافَ النَّاسُ، وَلَا يَحْزَنُونَ إِذَا حَزَنَ النَّاسُ" وَقَرَأَ هَذِهِ الْآيَةَ: {أَلَا إِنَّ أَوْلِيَاءَ اللَّهِ لَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ} [يونس: 62]

"There are people from Allah's servants who are neither prophets nor martyrs, but the prophets and martyrs will envy them on the Day of Resurrection for their rank with Allah, the Most High. They (the people) asked, 'Tell us who are they, O Messenger of Allah?' He replied, 'They are people who love one another for Allah's spirit without having any mutual kinship or giving property to one another. I swear by Allah, their faces will glow and they will sit on light. They will neither have fear when the people fear, nor they will grieve when the people grieve.' Then he recited this verse, 'Unquestionably, [for] the allies of Allah there will be no fear concerning them, nor will they grieve.'"

"They are people who love one another for Allah's spirit." It refers to the Quran. (Narrated by

Abu Daoud and graded as good by the verifier of Jama Al-USul)

It was narrated that the early generations (the Salaf) said, "If anyone loves for Allah's sake, hates for Allah's sake, supports for Allah's sake, and shows enmity for Allah's sake, Allah's guardianship is only attained by that. No servant will taste the sweetness of faith, even if he prayed and fasted a lot, until he acts like that. Indeed, most people's companionship nowadays is based on worldly matters, which does not bring benefit to them."

(6) Be keen to love the believers who seek Allah's help, even if people label them with repulsive nicknames. Stay away from anyone who calls upon other than Allah or denies His being above His Throne. He is among the innovators.

Allies of the Most Merciful and Allies of Satan

Q1: Who are the allies of the Most Merciful?

A1: They are the righteous believers who adhere to the Quran and the Sunnah. Allah, the Almighty, said,

{أَلَا إِنَّ أَوْلِيَاءَ اللَّهِ لَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَكَانُوا يَتَّقُونَ}

"Unquestionably, [for] the allies of Allah there will be no fear concerning them, nor will they grieve." (Surat Yunus: 62)

The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said,

"إِنَّمَا وَلِيِّيَ اللَّهُ، وصالحُ المؤمنين"

"Verily, my support is Allah and the pious believers." [Narrated by Al-Bukhāri and Muslim]

Q2: Who are the allies of Satan?

A2: They are those who oppose the Most Merciful. They are the people of innovation and misguided desires who neither adhere to the Quran nor the Sunnah. They call upon other than Allah and deny His being above His Throne. They strike themselves with iron and eat fire like the Magians and devils used to do. Allah, the Almighty, said:

{وَمَنْ يَعِشْ عَنْ ذِكْرِ الرَّحْمَنِ نُفَيِّضْ لَهُ شَيْطَانًا فَهُوَ لَهُ قَرِينٌ وَإِنَّهُمْ لَيَصُدُّونَهُمْ
عَنِ السَّبِيلِ وَيَحْسَبُونَ أَنَّهُمْ مُهْتَدُونَ}.

"And whoever is blinded from remembrance of the Most Merciful - We appoint for him a devil, and he is to him a companion. And indeed, they [i.e., the devils] avert them from the way [of guidance] while they think that they are [rightly] guided." Ya'shu means to turn away. (Surat Az-Zukhruf: 36, 37)

Major Shirk

What is the greatest sin in the sight of Allaah?

It is to associate partners with Him, and the evidence for this is in Allaah's Words:

{يٰٓأَيُّهَا لَا تُشْرِكْ بِاللّٰهِ إِنَّ الشِّرْكَ لَظُلْمٌ عَظِيمٌ}

"O my son! Do not associate partners with Allaah, verily, shirk is a great wrong." (Surat Luqman: 13)

And when Allaah's Messenger was asked:

«أَيُّ الذَّنْبِ أَكْثَرُ؟» قَالَ: «أَنْ تَجْعَلَ لِلَّهِ نِدًّا وَهُوَ خَلْقُكَ»

"Which is the greatest sin?" He replied: "It is to ascribe partners to Allaah, although it is He (Alone) Who created you." (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

What is major shirk?

What is the major shirk?

It is to direct one's worship to other than Allaah, such as invoking or supplicating false deities, seeking sustenance from the dead, or the absent from among the living.

Allah, the Almighty, said,

﴿وَأَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَلَا تُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا﴾

"Worship Allaah and do not associate any partners with Him." (Surat An-Nisaa': 36)

"And the Prophet said:

«مَنْ أَكْبَرَ الْكِبَائِرِ: الشِّرْكُ بِاللَّهِ»

"The greatest sin is associating partners with Allaah." (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari)

Does shirk exist among the Muslims today?

Yes, it does. The evidence for this is in Allaah's Words:

﴿وَمَا يُؤْمِنُ أَكْثَرُهُمْ بِاللَّهِ إِلَّا وَهُمْ مُشْرِكُونَ﴾

"And most of them believe not in Allaah, except that they attribute partners (to Him)." (Surat Yusuf: 106)

And the Prophet said:

«لَا تَقُومُ السَّاعَةُ حَتَّى تَلْحَقَ قِبَائِلُ مَنْ آمَنَ بِالْمُشْرِكِينَ، وَحَتَّى تَعْبُدَ الْأَوْثَانُ»

“The Hour will not come until some communities from among my people join the polytheists and until idols are worshipped (by them).” (Narrated by At-Tirmithi)

What is the ruling on supplicating the dead or those who are absent?

Supplicating the dead or those who are absent is a form of major shirk. Allaah says:

﴿وَلَا تَدْعُ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ مَا لَا يَنْفَعُكَ وَلَا يَضُرُّكَ فَإِنْ فَعَلْتَ فَإِنَّكَ إِذَا مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ﴾

"And call not upon other than Allaah, who can neither benefit nor harm you, for if you did so, you would indeed be one of the wrong-doers." (Surat Yunus: 106)

It means the polytheist.

And the Prophet said:

«مَنْ مَاتَ وَهُوَ يَدْعُو مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ نِدَاءً دَخَلَ النَّارَ»

“Whoever dies as one who supplicated partners besides Allaah, will enter the Fire.” (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari)

Is du’aa` (i.e. supplication) a form of worship?

Yes, du’aa` is a form of worship. Allaah says:

﴿وَقَالَ رَبُّكُمْ ادْعُونِي أَسْتَجِبْ لَكُمْ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ عَنْ عِبَادَتِي سَيَدْخُلُونَ جَهَنَّمَ دَاخِرِينَ﴾

"And your Lord said: Call upon Me and I will answer you; verily, those who scorn to worship Me, they will surely enter the Hellfire in humiliation." (Surat Ghafer: 60)

It means they will be humiliated.

And the Prophet said:

«الدعاء هو العبادة»

"Du'aa` – that is worship." (Narrated by Ahmad, and At-Tirmithi said that it is hasan- saheeh)

Do the dead hear supplications?

No, they do not. Allaah says:

1-

﴿إِنَّكَ لَا تَسْمِعُ الْمَوْتَى﴾

"You cannot make the dead hear." (Surat An-Naml: 80)

2-

﴿وَمَا أَنْتَ بِمُسْمِعٍ مَّن فِي الْقُبُورِ﴾

"But you cannot make to hear those who are in the graves." (Surat Fater: 22)

Types of Major Shirk

Q.7 Should we seek help from those who are dead or those who are absent?

No, we should not do so. Allaah, Most High, says:

1-

﴿وَالَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ لَا يَخْلُقُونَ شَيْئًا وَهُمْ يُخْلَقُونَ ۚ ۚ أَمْوَاتٌ غَيْرُ أَحْيَاءٍ ۚ وَمَا يَشْعُرُونَ أَيَّانَ يُبْعَثُونَ﴾

"And those whom they invoke besides Allaah do not create anything, but are themselves created.

(They are) dead, lifeless and they know not when they will be raised up." (Surat An-Nahl: 20-21)

2-

﴿إِذْ تَسْتَغِيثُونَ رَبَّكُمْ فَاسْتَجَابَ لَكُمْ﴾

"(Remember) when you sought the help of your Lord and He answered you." (Surat Al-Anfaal: 9)

And the Prophet said:

«يَا حَيُّ يَا قَيُّوْمُ بِرَحْمَتِكَ أَسْتَغِيْثُ»

"O You the Ever-living, the All-Sustaining! By Your Mercy, I seek help." (Good hadith narrated by Imaam At-Tirmithi)

May we seek help from the living?

A2: Yes, in the matters they are able to assist with. Allah, the Almighty, said about Moses,

﴿فَاسْتَعَاثُهُ الَّذِي مِنْ شِيعَتِهِ عَلَى الَّذِي مِنْ عَدُوِّهِ فَوَكَرَهُ مُوسَى فَقَضَى عَلَيْهِ﴾

"And the one from his faction called for help to him against the one from his enemy, so Moses struck him and [unintentionally] killed him." (Surat Al-Qasas: 15)

Is it permissible to seek help from other than Allaah?

No, it is not permissible. The evidence for this is in Allaah's Words:

﴿إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِيْظُ﴾

"It is You Whom we worship and it is Your Aid we seek." (Surat Al-Faatihah: 5)

And the Prophet said:

«إِذَا سَأَلْتَ فَاسْأَلِ اللّٰهَ، وَإِذَا اسْتَعْنَيْتَ فَاسْتَعِنْ بِاللّٰهِ»

“When you ask, ask Allaah and when you seek help, seek it from Allaah.” (A hasan-saheeh narration by At- Tirmithi)

May we seek help from the living?

Yes, we may seek help from them in those things which they are able to do. Allaah, Most High, says:

﴿وَتَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْبِرِّ وَالتَّقْوَىٰ﴾

"Help you one another in righteousness and piety." (Surat Al-Maa'idah: 2)

And the Prophet said:

«والله في عون العبد، ما كان العبد في عون أخيه»

“Allaah helps the slave so long as the slave helps his brother.” (Narrated by Muslim)

Is it permitted to swear an oath to other than Allaah?

No, it is not permitted. Allaah says:

﴿رَبِّ إِنِّي نَذَرْتُ لَكَ مَا فِي بَطْنِي مُحَرَّرًا﴾

"My Lord! Verily, I have vowed to You what is in my womb to be dedicated to Your service." (Surat Aal 'Imraan: 35)

And the Prophet said:

«مَنْ نَذَرَ أَنْ يُطِيعَ اللَّهَ فَلْيُطِعهُ، وَمَنْ نَذَرَ أَنْ يُعْصِيَهُ، فَلَا يُعْصِه»

"Whoever vowed to obey Allaah, should do so and whoever vowed to disobey Him should not do so." (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari)

Is it permissible to slaughter an animal in any name besides that of Allaah?

No, it is not permissible. The evidence for this is in Allaah's Words:

﴿فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَأَنْحَرْ﴾

"So pray to your Lord and slaughter (in His Name only)." (Surat Al-Kawthar: 2)

"Enhar" means to slaughter.

And the Prophet said:

«لَعَنَ اللَّهُ مَنْ ذَبَحَ لِغَيْرِ اللَّهِ»

"Allaah's curse is upon one who sacrifices to other than Allaah." (Narrated by Muslim)

May we circumambulate the graves in order to get closer to Allaah?

No, we may not circumambulate except around the Ka'bah. Allaah says:

﴿وَلْيَطَّوَّفُوا بِالْبَيْتِ الْعَتِيقِ﴾

"So let them circumambulate the Ancient House (i.e. the Ka'bah)." (Surat Al-Hajj: 29)

And the Prophet said:

«مَنْ طَافَ بِالْبَيْتِ سَبْعًا وَصَلَّى رَكْعَتَيْنِ، كَانَ كَعَتَقِ رَقَبَةٍ»

"Whoever circumambulated the House (of Allaah) seven times it (i.e. his reward) will be as if he had freed a slave." (An authentic hadeeth narrated by Ibn Maajah)

What is the ruling on practising magic?

Magic is kufr. Allaah says:

﴿وَلَكِنَّ الشَّيَاطِينَ كَفَرُوا يُعَلِّمُونَ النَّاسَ السِّحْرَ﴾

"But the devils disbelieved, teaching mankind magic." (Surat Al-Baqarah: 102)

And the Prophet said:

«اجتنبوا السبع الموبقات: الشرك بالله، والسحر..»

"Avoid the seven grave sins: Associating partners with Allaah, magic..." (Narrated by Muslim)

Should we believe the claims of the 'arraaf and the fortuneteller to know the unseen?

No, we should not believe them. Allaah says:

﴿قُلْ لَا يَعْلَمُ مَنْ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ الْغَيْبَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ﴾

"Say: "None in the heavens and the earth knows the unseen except Allaah." (Surat An-Naml: 65)

And the Prophet said:

«مَنْ أَتَى عَرَافًا، أَوْ كَاهِنًا، فَصَدَّقَهُ بِمَا يَقُولُ، فَقَدْ كَفَرَ بِمَا أَنْزَلَ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ»

"Whoever visited an 'arraaf or a fortuneteller and believed in what he said, has disbelieved in what was revealed to Muhammad." (An authentic hadeeth narrated by Imaam Ahmad)

Does anyone have knowledge of the unseen?

No, none has knowledge of the unseen, except what Allaah revealed to the Messengers. Allaah says:

﴿عَلَّمَ الْغَيْبَ فَلَا يُظْهِرُ عَلَى غَيْبِهِ أَحَدًا ۖ إِلَّا مَنِ ارْتَضَىٰ مِنْ رَسُولٍ﴾

"(He Alone is) the Knower of the unseen and He reveals to none His unseen

except to a Messenger whom He has chosen." (Surat Al-Jinn: 26-27)

And the Prophet said:

«لا يعلم الغيب إلا الله»

"None knows the unseen except Allaah." (A hasan narration by At-Tabaraani)

What is the ruling on acting upon laws which contradict Islaam?

Acting upon laws which contradict Islaam is kufr, if the perpetrator claims that it is permissible to do so, or if he believes in their validity.

Allaah says:

﴿وَمَنْ لَّمْ يَحْكَمْ بِمَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْكَافِرُونَ﴾

"And whoever does not judge by what Allaah has revealed, they are the disbelievers." (Surat Al-Maa'idah: 44)

And the Prophet said:

«وما لم تحكم أنمئثم بكتاب الله، ويتخيروا مما أنزل الله، إلا جعل الله بأسهم بينهم»

"When their leaders do not rule by Allaah's Book and pick and choose from what Allaah has revealed, Allaah causes conflict between them." (A hasan hadeeth narrated by Ibn Maajah and others)

Q12: What is atheism and what is the ruling on an atheist?

Atheism is to turn away from the truth through various beliefs and interpretations. An atheist is a person who deviates from Allah's straight path and opposes His rulings through corrupted interpretations or casting doubt. This includes a

person who denies Allah's existence, equates others with Allah by directing worship, supplication, love, and veneration to them, or accepts ideologies and legislations that contradict Allah's law. Whoever subjects the Quran and revealed texts of the Qur'anic verses and Hadiths to reason and personal desire through interpretation has indeed deviated in matters of Allah's names, attributes, verses, and Hadiths. Allah the Almighty said:

{وَلِلَّهِ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَىٰ فَادْعُوهُ بِهَا وَذَرُوا الَّذِينَ يُلْحِدُونَ فِي أَسْمَائِهِ سَيُجْزَوْنَ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ}

"And to Allāh belong 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." (Surat Al-A'raf: 180)

Qatada said, "Yulhedoun means to have polytheism in the matters of Allah's names."

Ibn Abbas said, "Ilhad means to deny." Allah, the Almighty, said,

{إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُلْحِدُونَ فِي آيَاتِنَا لَا يَخْفَوْنَ عَلَيْنَا}

"Indeed, those who inject deviation into Our verses are not concealed from Us." (Surat Fussilat: 40)

Ibn Abbas said, Ilhad means to falsely use words in other meanings.

Qatada and others said, "Disbelief and arrogance." (Ibn Kathir 4/102)

Likewise, whoever claims that Islamic law does not provide certain knowledge that necessitates action until his corrupt intellect accepts it is an atheist, for he makes his intellect a rival to the Islamic religion.

The ruling on atheists varies based on their atheism:

1- The atheist who denies Allah's existence or any of His established names and attributes is a disbeliever.

2- The atheist who calls upon other than Allah and seeks help from the dead has committed polytheism that nullifies one's deeds.

3- The atheist who falsely interprets Allah's established names and attributes in the Quran and authentic Sunnah is in clear misguidance.

May Allah protect us from all forms of atheism! (Summarized from "Ajweba Mufida" written by Ad-Dusary)

Q13: What was the polytheists' doctrine before Islam?

A13: They used to call upon the righteous to be close to Allah and seek intercession.

(1) Allah, the Almighty, said,

{وَالَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا مِنْ دُونِهِ أَوْلِيَاءَ مَا نَعْبُدُهُمْ إِلَّا لِيُقَرِّبُونَا إِلَى اللَّهِ زُلْفَىٰ}

"And those who take protectors besides Him [say], 'We only worship them that they may bring us nearer to Allāh in position.'" (Surat Az-Zumar: 3)

(2)

{وَيَعْبُدُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ مَا لَا يَضُرُّهُمْ وَلَا يَنْفَعُهُمْ وَيَقُولُونَ هَؤُلَاءِ شَفَعَاؤُنَا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ}

"And they worship other than Allāh that which neither harms them nor benefits them, and they say, 'These are our intercessors with Allāh.'" (Surat Yunus: 18)

And some Muslims do the same and imitate the polytheists.

Q14: What is the ruling on burying the dead in a mosque?

A14: The mosque is Allah's House where it is forbidden to bury the dead. Allah, the Almighty, said:

{وَأَنَّ الْمَسَاجِدَ لِلَّهِ فَلَا تَدْعُوا مَعَ اللَّهِ أَحَدًا}.

"And [He revealed] that the masjids are for Allāh, so do not invoke with Allāh anyone." (Surat Al-Jinn: 18)

The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said,

"لعن الله اليهود والنصارى اتخذوا قبور أنبيائهم مساجد"

"May Allah curse the Jews and Christians! They took their Prophets' graves as mosques." [Narrated by Al-Bukhāri and Muslim]

Q15: Is it permissible to pray in graveyards?

It is not permissible, for Allah said

{قَوْلَ وَجْهَكَ شَطْرَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ}

"So turn your face [i.e., yourself] toward al-Masjid al-Harām." (Surat Al-Baqarah: 144)

The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said,

"لا تُصَلُّوا إِلَى الْقُبُورِ وَلَا تَجْلِسُوا عَلَيْهَا."

"Do not pray towards graves and do not sit on them." (Narrated by Muslim)

What should we do if Satan tempts us to ask the question: "Who created Allaah?"

If Satan whispers this question to any of you, he should seek refuge with Allaah.

Allaah says:

{وَإِمَّا يَنْزَغَنَّكَ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ نَزْعٌ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ}

"And if an evil whisper from Satan tries to turn you away (O Muhammad) then seek refuge with Allaah. Verily, He is the All-Hearing the All-Knowing."

(Surat Fussilat: 36)

And Allaah's Messenger taught us to resist Satan's deceptions by saying:

«آمَنْتُ بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ، اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ، اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ، لَمْ يَلِدْ، وَلَمْ يُولَدْ، وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ».

It means: "I believe in Allaah and His Messenger. Allaah is One, the Self-sufficient, He does not beget, nor was He begotten and there is no like unto Him."

«ثُمَّ لِيُقْفَلْ عَنْ يَسَارِهِ ثَلَاثًا، وَلِيَسْتَعِذَّ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ، وَلِيَنْتَهِيَ، فَإِنْ ذَلِكَ يَذْهَبَ عَنْهُ».

Then he should spit over his left shoulder three times, seeking refuge from Satan. When this is done, the temptation will pass, for it causes the devil to be sent away from him.

(This is the essence of the authentic hadeeths narrated by Al-Bukhaari, Muslim, Ahmad, and Abu Dawood)

What is the danger of major shirk?

Major shirk condemns a person to eternal damnation in the Hellfire, as Allaah says:

﴿إِنَّهُ مَنْ يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ الْجَنَّةَ وَمَأْوَاهُ النَّارُ وَمَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِنْ أَنْصَارٍ﴾

"Verily, whoever sets up partners with Allaah, Allaah has forbidden for him Paradise and his abode will be the Fire and for the wrong-doers there are no helpers." (Surat Al-Maa'idah: 72)

And the Prophet said:

«وَمَنْ لَقِيَ اللَّهَ يُشْرِكُ بِهِ شَيْئًا دَخَلَ النَّارَ»

"Whoever meets Allaah while associating anything with Him will enter the Fire." (Narrated by Muslim)

Is there any benefit in good deeds for one who commits shirk?

No, there is no benefit in his deeds. Allaah says about his prophets:

﴿وَلَوْ أَشْرَكُوا لَحَبِطَ عَنْهُمْ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ﴾

"But if they had committed shirk, all that they used to do would have been of no benefit to them."
(Surat Al-An'aam: 88)

And the Prophet said:

«قال الله تعالى: أنا أغنى الشركاء عن الشرك مَنْ عَمِلَ عَمَلًا أَشْرَكَ مَعِيَ فِيهِ غَيْرِي، تَرَكْتُهُ وَشِرْكُهُ..»

"Allaah says: "I have no need of partners, whoever does any deed in which he associates partners with Me, I will reject him and his shirk." (Narrated by Muslim)

Minor Shirk

What is the minor shirk?

Minor shirk is riyaa`. Allaah, Most High, says:¹

﴿فَمَنْ كَانَ يَرْجُوا لِقَاءَ رَبِّهِ فَلْيَعْمَلْ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا وَلَا يُشْرِكْ بِعِبَادَةِ رَبِّهِ أَحَدًا﴾

"And whoever hopes to meet his Lord, let him perform righteous deeds and associate none as a partner in the worship of his Lord." (Surat Al-Kahf: 110)

And the Prophet said:

«إن أخوف ما أخافُ عليكم الشرك الأصغر»

"Verily, the thing which I fear most for you is minor shirk." which means ostentation. (An authentic hadeeth narrated by Imaam Ahmad)

¹ Minor polytheism is anything that leads to major polytheism and a means to fall into it, or anything that Islam calls polytheism without reaching the level of major polytheism as showing off and swearing by other than Allah.

It is a form of minor shirk for a person to say: "Had it not been for Allaah and so-and-so..." or: "As Allaah and you will."

The Prophet said:

«لا تقولوا ما شاء الله وشاء فلان، ولكن قولوا: ما شاء الله ثم شاء فلان»

"Do not say: "As Allaah wills and as so-and-so wills." Instead, he should say: "As Allaah wills, then as so-and-so wills." (An authentic hadeeth narrated by Abu Dawood)

Is it permitted to swear by other than Allaah?

No, it is not permissible to swear by other than Allaah. He, Most High, says:

﴿قُلْ بَلَىٰ وَرَبِّي لَتُبْعَثُنَّ﴾

"Say: "Yes, by my Lord, you will certainly be resurrected..." (Surat At-Taghaabun: 7)

And the Prophet said:

«من حلف بغير الله فقد أشرك»

"Whoever swears by other than Allaah has committed shirk." (Narrated by Imaam Ahmad)

And he said:

«من كان حالفاً، فليحلف بالله أو ليصمت»

"Whoever swears, let him swear by Allaah or keep silent." (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

Should we wear beads, shells, and such like (as a protection from al-'ain)?

No, we should not do so. Allaah says:

﴿وَإِنْ يَمْسَسْكَ اللَّهُ بِضُرٍّ فَلَا كَاشِفَ لَهُ إِلَّا هُوَ﴾

"And if Allaah seizes you with harm, none can remove it but Him." (Surat Al-An'aam: 17)

And the Prophet said:

«أما إنها لا تزيدك إلا وَهْنًا، انبذها عنك، فإنك لو ميتٌ ما أفلحت أبدًا»

"Whoever wore a talisman has committed shirk." (An authentic hadeeth narrated by Imaam Ahmad)

Q4: Is it permissible to wear beads, shells, and the like?

We should not wear them to prevent envy. Allah, the Almighty, said,¹

﴿وَإِنْ يَمَسَّكَ اللَّهُ بِضُرٍّ فَلَا كَاشِفَ لَهُ إِلَّا هُوَ﴾

"And if Allah should touch you with adversity, there is no remover of it except Him." (Surat Al-An'am: 17)

The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said,

«مَنْ عَلَّقَ تَمِيمَةً فَقَدْ أَشْرَكَ»

"Whoever ties on an amulet commits an act of polytheism." (Narrated by Ahmad)

Amulets are beads or shells that a person wears to prevent envy.

Q5: Can minor polytheism become a major one?

A5: Yes, if a Muslim believes that the amulets, strings, or rings benefit on their own, or if he avoids falsely swearing by a saint out of fear that he may harm him, believing that he has an effect.

¹ Not to prevent envy or anything else.

Seeking Intercession

By what means should we seek intercession with Allaah?

A. Seeking intercession is of two types: Permitted and prohibited.

1. That which is permitted and desired is through Allaah's Names and His Attributes and through righteous deeds.

Allaah, Most High, says:

﴿وَلِلَّهِ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَىٰ فَادْعُوهُ بِهَا﴾

"And to Allaah belong the most beautiful Names, so call upon Him by them." (Surat Al-A'raaf: 180)

And He, Most High, also says:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَابْتَغُوا إِلَيْهِ الْوَسِيلَةَ﴾

"O you who believe! Fear Allaah and seek the means of approach to Him." (Surat Al-Maa'idah: 35)

It means: Draw near to Allaah by obedience to Him and through the deeds which please Him.

(Reported by Ibn Katheer on the authority of Qataadah)

And the Prophet said:

«أَسْأَلُكَ بِكُلِّ اسْمٍ هُوَ لَكَ»

"I ask You by every Name which is Yours." (An authentic hadeeth narrated by Imaam Ahmad)

He also said to the Companion who asked to be with him in Paradise:

«أُعِيِّنِي عَلَىٰ نَفْسِكَ بِكَثْرَةِ السُّجُودِ»

"Help me in this matter by frequent prostration." It means: Frequent prayers which is a righteous deed). (Narrated by Muslim)

As in the story of the people of the cave who sought intercession through righteous deeds and Allaah made a way out for them.

It is also permitted to pray for intercession through our love and Allaah's love for the Prophet and the righteous people, for our love for them is a righteous act.

So we say, for example, "O Allah, by Your love for Your Messenger and allies, grant us victory. By our love for Your Messenger and allies, grant us healing)"

2. Prohibited forms of intercession: This is by supplicating the dead and requesting them to fulfill our needs, as occurs today.

This is a form of major shirk, as Allaah says:

﴿وَلَا تَدْعُ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ مَا لَا يَنْفَعُكَ وَلَا يَضُرُّكَ فَإِنْ فَعَلْتَ فَإِنَّكَ إِذَا مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ﴾

"And call not upon other than Allaah any that can neither profit you nor hurt you, for if you did so, you would certainly be one of the wrongdoers (i.e. the polytheists)." (Surat Yunus: 106)

It means: The polytheists.

3. As for seeking intercession through the rank or honour of the Messenger, such as the saying: "O Allaah! By the honour of the Messenger, cure me," this is a bid'ah, because the Companions did not do

it and 'Umar sought intercession through Al-'Abbaas while he was alive, by asking him to supplicate Allaah and he did not seek intercession from the Messenger after his death. And this (innovatory) form of seeking intercession might lead to shirk, if the one who supplicates believes that Allaah is in need of a human intermediary, as if He were like a Governor or a Ruler, for that would be comparing the Creator with His creation.

Author's footnote: Anyone seeking more information or evidence on this subject is advised to refer to: 'Intercession, its Rulings and its Forms' by Shaikh Al-Albani (may Allaah have mercy on him).

Does supplication require a human intermediary?

No, it does not. Allaah, Most High, says:

﴿وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ﴾

"And when My slaves ask you about Me, (say that) I am near (i.e. in Hearing, Seeing, and Knowledge)." (Surat Al-Baqarah: 186)

And the Prophet said:

«إِنَّكُمْ تَدْعُونَ سَمِيعًا قَرِيبًا وَهُوَ مَعَكُمْ»

"Verily, you are supplicating One Who hears and is near (i.e. in His Knowledge)." It means: With His Knowledge. (Narrated by Muslim)

Is it permitted to request those who are living to pray for us?

Yes, it is permitted to ask the living to pray for us, but not the dead.

Allaah said to the Messenger when he was alive:

﴿وَأَسْتَغْفِرْ لِذَنْبِكَ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ﴾

"And seek forgiveness (from Allaah) for your sins and for (those of) the believing men and women."

(Surat Muhammad:19)

And in the authentic hadeeth narrated by At-Tirmithi

«أَنَّ رَجُلًا ضَرِيرَ الْبَصَرِ أَتَى النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ، فَقَالَ: ادْعُ اللَّهَ أَنْ يَعاْفِيَنِي، قَالَ: إِنْ شِئْتَ دَعَوْتُ لَكَ، وَإِنْ شِئْتَ صَبَرْتَ فَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَكَ....»

That a blind man came to the Prophet and said: "Ask Allaah to heal me..." (Narrated by Ibn Khuzaimah)

What is the mediation of the Messenger?

The mediation of the Messenger is the transmission of the Message. Allaah, Most High, says:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الرَّسُولُ بَلِّغْ مَا أُنْزِلَ إِلَيْكَ مِنْ رَبِّكَ﴾

"O Messenger! Proclaim what has been revealed to you from your Lord." (Surat Al-Maa'idah: 67)

And the Prophet said,

«اللهم اشْهَدْ»

"O Allaah! Bear witness!" in his reply to the Companion who said: "We witness that you have transmitted (the Message)." (Narrated by Muslim)

From whom may we seek the Messenger's intercession?

We seek it from Allaah. He, Most High, says:

﴿قُلْ لِلَّهِ الشَّفَعَةُ جَمِيعًا﴾

"Say: "To Allaah belongs all intercession." (Surat Az-Zumar: 44)

And the Prophet taught the Companion to say:

«اللهم شَفِّعْهُ فِيَّ»

"O Allaah! Make him (i.e. the Prophet my intercessor." (Narrated by At-Tirmithi who graded it hasan-saheeh)

It means to let the Prophet intercede for me.

And he also said:

«إِنِّي اخْتَبَأْتُ دَعْوَتِي شَفَاعَةً لِأُمَّتِي يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ، فَهِيَ نَائِلَةٌ إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ: مَنْ مَاتَ مِنْ أُمَّتِي لَا يُشْرِكُ بِاللَّهِ شَيْئًا»

"I have kept until the Day of Resurrection my prayer for intercession for those of my people who died without associating partners with Allaah." (Narrated by Muslim)

May we seek intercession from the living?

Yes, we may seek intercession from the living in matters relating to the life of this world. Allaah, Most High, says:

﴿مَنْ يَشْفَعْ شَفْعَةً حَسَنَةً يَكُنْ لَهُ نَصِيبٌ مِّنْهَا وَمَنْ يَشْفَعْ شَفْعَةً سَيِّئَةً يَكُنْ لَهُ كِفْلٌ مِّنْهَا﴾

"Whoever intercedes with a good intercession will have the reward thereof and whoever intercedes with an evil intercession will have a

share in its burden." (Surat An-Nisaa` : 85) It means a share of its burden.

And the Prophet said:

«اشفعوا تؤجروا»

“Intercede and you shall be rewarded.” (An authentic hadeeth narrated by Abu Dawood)

Should we praise the Messenger excessively?

No, we should not do so. Allaah, Most High, says:

﴿قُلْ إِنَّمَا أَنَا بَشَرٌ مِّثْلُكُمْ يُوحَىٰ إِلَيَّ أَنَّمَا إِلَهُكُم إِلَهٌ وَاحِدٌ﴾

"Say (O Muhammad): "I am only a human being, like you. It has been inspired to me that your God is one God..." (Surat Al-Kahf: 110)

And the Prophet said:

«لَا تُطْرُونِي كَمَا أَطَرَتِ النَّصَارَىٰ عِيسَىٰ ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ، فَإِنَّمَا أَنَا عَبْدٌ فَقُولُوا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ»

“Do not praise me excessively as did the Christians praise ‘Eesaa Ibn Maryam , for I am only a slave. So, say: “(He is) the slave of Allaah and His Messenger.” (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari)

(Excessive praise of a human being is called itraa`)

Jihaad, Walaa`, and Hukm

What is the ruling on jihaad in Allaah’s Cause?

A1: Allah legislated jihad for several reasons, including:

1- Resisting polytheism, for Allah never accepts it.

(2) Removing the obstacles that hinder the path of calling to Allah.

(3) Protecting the Islamic creed from all dangers that threaten it.

4- Defending the Muslims and their homelands.

Q. What is the ruling on jihaad in Allaah's Cause?

A. Jihaad in Allaah's Cause with one's wealth, person, and tongue is an obligation in Islaam. Allaah, Most High, says:

﴿انْفِرُوا خِفَافًا وَثِقَالًا وَجَاهِدُوا بِأَمْوَالِكُمْ وَأَنْفُسِكُمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ﴾

"March forth, whether (you are) light (i.e. healthy, young, and wealthy) or heavy (i.e. ill, old, and poor)." (Surat At-Tawbah: 41)

And the Prophet said:

«وجاهدوا المشركين بأموالكم وأنفسكم وألسنتكم»

And the Prophet said: "Fight against the idolaters with your wealth, your lives, and your tongues." (An authentic hadeeth narrated by Abu Dawood)

Q. What is walaa'?

A. Walaa' is love and support.

Allaah, Most High, says:

﴿وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتُ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ بَعْضٍ﴾

"And the believing men and women are awliyyaa' (supporters, protectors, etc.) to each other." (Surat At-Tawbah: 71)

And the Prophet said:

«المؤمن للمؤمن كالبنيان يشدُّ بعضُه بعضاً»

“The Believers are to each other like (the bricks of) a building, each one supporting the other.”
(Narrated by Muslim)

Q. Is it permitted to take the disbelievers as awliyaa` and supporters?

A. No, it is not permitted to do so. Allaah, Most High, says:

﴿وَمَنْ يَتَوَلَّهُمْ مِنكُمْ فَإِنَّهُ مِنْهُمْ﴾

"And if anyone amongst you takes them as awliyaa`, then verily, he is one of them." (Surat Al-Maa'idah: 51)

And the Prophet said:

«إِنْ آلَ بَنِي فَلَانٍ لَيْسُوا بِأَوْلِيَائِي»

“Verily, the people of such-and-such tribe are not my awliyaa`.” (An authentic hadeeth narrated by Ahmad)

Q. Who is a waliyy?

A. A waliyy is a pious believer. Allaah, Most High, says:

﴿أَلَا إِنَّ أَوْلِيَاءَ اللَّهِ لَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ﴾

"No doubt! Verily, the awliyaa` of Allaah, no fear shall come upon them, nor shall they grieve – those who believed and used to fear (Allaah)." (Surat Yunus: 62-63)

And the Prophet said:

«إِنَّمَا وَلِيِّيَ اللَّهُ وَصَالِحُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ»

“My only Waliyy is Allaah and the most righteous of the believers.” (An authentic hadeeth narrated by Imaam Ahmad)

Q. By what should the Muslims govern?

A. They should govern according to the Qur`aan and the authentic hadeeths.

Allaah, Most High, says:

﴿وَأَنْ أَحْكُمَ بَيْنَهُمْ بِمَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ﴾

"And so judge (O Muhammad) between them by what Allaah has revealed." (Surat Al-Maa`idah: 49)

And the Prophet said:

«عالم الغيب والشهادة أنت تحكم بين عبادك»

“Knower of the unseen and that which is open, You will judge between your slaves.” (Narrated by Muslim)

The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said,

"تركتُ فيكم أمرين لن تضلُّوا ما تمسكتم بهما: كتاب الله، وسنة رسوله."

"I left two matters with you. As long as you hold to them, you will not go astray: Allah's Book and His Messenger Sunnah." (Narrated by Malik, and graded as authentic by Albānī and the verifier of Jami` al-Usul based on its supporting narrations)

Acting in accordance With the Qur`aan and Hadeeth

Q. Why did Allaah reveal the Qur`aan?

A. He, Most High, revealed the Qur'aan in order that we may act in accordance with it. Allaah says:

﴿اتَّبِعُوا مَا أَنزَلَ إِلَيْكُم مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ﴾

"Follow what has been revealed to you from your Lord." (Surat Al-A'araaf: 3)

And the Prophet said:

«اقرأ القرآن واعملوا به، ولا تأكلوا به»

"Read the Qur'aan and act upon it and do not make your living from it." (An authentic hadeeth narrated by Ahmad)

Q2: What is the most important matter that the Quran explains to mankind?

A2: The most important matter that the Quran cares about clarifying for people is the knowledge of the Creator, the Benefactor who alone deserves to be worshipped. It also refutes the polytheists' claims who used to invoke their allies and carve stones in their likeness. Allah commanded His Messenger to say,

﴿قُلْ إِنَّمَا أَدْعُو رَبِّي وَلَا أُشْرِكُ بِهِ أَحَدًا﴾

"Say, [O Muḥammad], 'I only invoke my Lord and do not associate with Him anyone.'" (Surat Al-Jinn: 20)

Q3: Why do we recite the Noble Quran?

A3: To understand, ponder over, and act upon it.

﴿كِتَابٌ أَنزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ مُبَارَكٌ لِّيَدَّبَّرُوا آيَاتِهِ وَلِيَتَذَكَّرَ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ﴾

"[This is] a blessed Book which We have revealed to you, [O Muḥammad], that they might reflect upon its verses and that those of understanding would be reminded." (Surat Sad: 29)

Q. Can we act upon the authentic hadeeth?

A. Acting upon authentic hadeeth is obligatory. Allaah, Most High, says:

﴿وَمَا آتَاكُمُ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ فَانْتَهُوا﴾

"And whatsoever the Messenger gives you, take it, and whatsoever he forbids you, abstain (from it)." (Surat Al-Hashr: 7)

And the Prophet said:

«عليكم بسنتي وسنة الخلفاء الراشدين المهديين، تمسكوا بها»

"It is incumbent upon you to follow my Sunnah and that of the rightly guided Khulafaa' - hold fast to it." (An authentic hadeeth narrated by Imaam Ahmad)

Q. Can we suffice ourselves with the Qur'aan alone, without the hadeeth?

A. No, we cannot. Allaah, Most High, says:

﴿وَأَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الذِّكْرَ لِتُبَيِّنَ لِلنَّاسِ مَا نُزِّلَ إِلَيْهِمْ﴾

"And We have revealed to you (O Muhammad) the Reminder (i.e. the Qur'aan) that you might explain to the people what has been sent down to them." (Surat An-Nahl: 44)

And the Prophet said:

«ألا وإنني أوتيْتُ القرآن ومثله معه»

“Verily, I have been given the Qur’aan and its like (i.e. the hadeeth) along with it.” (An authentic hadeeth narrated by Abu Dawood and others)

Q. Should we give priority to other opinions over the Word of Allaah and His Messenger?

A. No, we should not do so, for Allaah, Most High, says:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَا تَقَدِّمُوا بَيْنَ يَدَيِ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ﴾

O you who believe! Do not decide [Any matter of importance] before Allaah and His Messenger.” (Surat Al-Hujuraat: 1)

And the Prophet said:

«لا طاعة لمخلوق في معصية الخالق»

“Let there be no obedience to any created being if it entails disobedience to the Creator.” (An authentic hadeeth narrated by At-Tabarani)

And Ibn ‘Abbaas said: “I fear that stones may rain upon you from the heaven! I say to you: “Allaah’s Messenger (ﷺ) said:” and you say: “But Abu Bakr and ‘Umar said: ...” !!” (Narrated by Ahmad & Ibn Abd Al-Barr)

Q. What should we do if we differ (in matters of religion)?

A. We should refer to the Qur’aan and the authentic Sunnah. Allaah, Most High, says:

﴿فَإِنْ تَنَزَّعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ
الْآخِرِ ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلًا﴾

"And if you differ in anything, refer it to Allaah and His Messenger, if you believe in Allaah and the Last Day. That is better and more suitable for final determination." (Surat An-Nisaa` : 59)

And the Prophet said:

«عليكم بسنتي وسنة الخلفاء الراشدين تمسكوا بها»

"It is incumbent upon you to follow my Sunnah and that of the rightly guided Khulafaa`. Hold fast to it." (An authentic hadeeth narrated by Imaam Ahmad)

Q. How do we demonstrate our love for Allaah and His Messenger?

A. By obeying them and following their commands. Allaah, Most High, says:

﴿قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ﴾

"Say: "If you love Allaah, then follow me. Allaah will love you and forgive you your sins and Allaah is Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful." (Surat Aal 'Imraan: 31)

And the Prophet said:

«لا يؤمن أحدكم حتى أكون أحب إليه من والده وولده والناس أجمعين»

"None of you has complete faith until I am more beloved by him than his father, his children, and all of mankind." (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

Q. Should we abandon action and depend upon Qadar?

A. No, we should not do so. Allaah, Most High, says:

﴿فَأَمَّا مَنْ أَعْطَىٰ وَاتَّقَىٰ ۖ وَصَدَّقَ بِالْحُسْنَىٰ ۖ فَسَنُيَسِّرُهُ لِلْيُسْرَىٰ﴾

"As for him who gives (in charity) and fears (Allaah)

and believes in al-husnaa (i.e. that none has the right to be worshipped but Allaah),

We shall make smooth for him the path of ease." (Surat Al-Lail: 5-7)

And the Prophet said:

«اعملوا فكلُّ مُيسَّرٍ لِمَا خُلِقَ لَهُ»

"Work (i.e. perform good deeds), for everything is made easy for that which it was created." (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

Q10: What is the wisdom behind the occurrence of calamities and hardships?

A10: When a person feels powerful and becomes arrogant, he believes that nothing can defeat him. Conversely, when his strength terribly diminishes and distress intensifies, he sees his real nature, his tyranny and arrogance vanish, and certainly turns to Allah that is alone can save him while everything else is in vain. Allah, the Exalted, said,

﴿وَإِذَا أَنْعَمْنَا عَلَى الْإِنْسَانِ أَعْرَضَ وَنَأَىٰ بِجَانِبِهِ وَإِذَا مَسَّهُ الشَّرُّ فَذُو دُعَاءٍ عَرِيضٍ﴾

"And when We bestow favor upon man, he turns away and distances himself; but when evil touches

him, then he is full of extensive supplication." (Surat Fussilat: 51)

Sunnah and Bid'ah

Q. Is there such a thing in the Religion as bid'ah hasanah (i.e. a good innovation)?

A. There is no such thing in the Religion as bid'ah hasanah. Allaah, Most High, says:

﴿الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتَمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا﴾

"This day I have perfected for you your Religion and completed My Favour upon you and chosen for you Islaam as your Religion." (Surat Al-Maa'idah: 3)

And the Prophet said:

«وكل بدعة ضلالة، وكل ضلالة في النار»

"...and every bid'ah is a misguidance and every misguidance is in the Fire." (An authentic hadeeth narrated by Imaam Ahmad and others)

Q. What is a bid'ah in religious matters?

A. A bid'ah in religious matters is either an addition or a deficit in the Religion. Allaah says, in refutation of the polytheists and their innovations:¹

﴿أَمْ لَهُمْ شُرَكَاءُ شَرَعُوا لَهُمْ مِنَ الدِّينِ مَا لَمْ يَأْذَنْ بِهِ اللَّهُ﴾

"Or do they have partners (with Allaah) who legislate for them a religion which Allaah has not ordained?" (Surat Ash-Shuraa: 21)

And the Prophet said:

«من أحدث في أمرنا هذا ما ليس منه فهو ردٌّ»

¹ It is to worship Allah through an act of worship that He does not legislate.

“Whoever introduced something new into this matter (i.e. this Religion) of ours will have it rejected.” (Narrated by Al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

Q. Is there a thing as sunnah hasanah in the Religion?

Q. Is there a thing as sunnah hasanah in the Religion?

A. Yes, there is such a thing. Allaah’s Messenger said:¹

The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said,

«من سنَّ في الإسلام سنةً حسنَّةً، فله أجرُها، وأجر من عمل بها مِن بعده، من غير أن ينقص من أجورهم شيء...»

“Whoever performs a good sunnah in Islaam will have the reward of it and the reward of those who follow his practice thereafter, without losing any of the reward for it.” (Narrated by Bukhari)

Q. When will the Muslims be victorious?

A. When they return to the implementation of the Book of their Lord and the Sunnah of their Prophet, spread the teachings of tawheed, avoid all different forms of shirk, and confront their enemies with all the power at their disposal. Allaah, Most High, says:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِن تَنصُرُوا اللَّهَ يَنصُرْكُمْ وَيُخْرِجْ أَقْدَامَكُمْ﴾

¹ It means a person who initiates a good deed such as giving charity to urge others to follow him; not a person who introduces something that is not a part of Islamic law.

"O you who believe! If you help (in the cause of) Allaah, He will help you and make your foothold firm." (Surat Muhammad: 7)

And He, Most High, also says:

﴿وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مِنكُمْ وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَيَسْتَخْلِفَنَّهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ كَمَا
أَسْتَخْلَفَ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ وَلَيُمَكِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ دِينَهُمُ الَّذِي ارْتَضَىٰ لَهُمْ وَلَيُبَدِّلَنَّهُم مِّن بَعْدِ
خَوْفِهِمْ أَمْنًا يَعْبُدُونَنِي لَا يُشْرِكُونَ بِي شَيْئًا﴾

"Allah has promised those among you who believe and do righteous deeds that He will make them successors in the land, as He made those who came before them, and He will surely establish for them their religion which He has chosen for them, and He will surely change their state of fear into security; that they worship Me, not associating anything with Me." (Surat An-Noor: 55)

Graves: Visiting, blessings, and torture

Q1: How and why do we visit graves?

A1: Visiting graves is recommended. It has benefits and etiquette as follows:

(1) It reminds people of death so they prepare for righteous deeds.

The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said,

"كُنْتُ نَهَيْتُكُمْ عَنْ زِيَارَةِ الْقُبُورِ فَزُورُوهَا".

"I had forbidden you from visiting graves, but now visit them." (Narrated by Muslim)

In another narration:

"فإنها تذكركم بالآخرة".

"Because it reminds you of the hereafter."
(Narrated by Ahmad - authentic hadith)

(2) We ask Allah's forgiveness for the dead. We neither call them besides Allah nor ask their supplication. The Prophet ﷺ taught his companions to say upon entering the graveyards,

"السلام عليكم أهل الديار مدين المؤمنين والمسلمين، وإنا إن شاء الله بكم للاحقون.
أسأل الله لنا ولكم العافية"

"Peace be upon you, the inhabitants of the abode (graveyard), believers and Muslims, and Allah willing, we will join you. I ask Allah's peace for us and you." Peace means to be protected from punishment. (Narrated by Muslim)

(3) Avoid sitting or facing graves while praying.
The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said,

"لا تصلوا إلى القبور، ولا تجلسوا عليها"

"Do not perform prayer while facing graves and do not sit on them." (Narrated by Muslim)

(4) We avoid reciting the Quran even if Surat Al-Fatihah. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said,

"لا تجعلوا بيوتكم مقابر، فإن الشيطان ينفر من البيت الذي تقرأ فيه البقرة" [رواه مسلم]

"Do not turn your households into graveyards. Indeed, the devils flee from a household where Surat al-Baqarah is recited in."

The hadith refers to that graves are not places for reciting the Quran unlike homes. It was neither reported that the Prophet ﷺ nor his companions recited the Quran for the deceased. Rather, they supplicated for them. When the Prophet ﷺ finished burying the dead, he used to stand by the grave and say:

"استغفروا لأخيكم وسلوا له التثبيت فإنه الآن يُسأل".

"Seek forgiveness for your brother and pray for him to be steadfast, for he is now being questioned."
(Narrated by Hakem - authentic hadith)

(5) We do not place flowers on graves, for the Prophet ﷺ and his companions did not do so. It contains imitating the Christian practices. If we gave the flowers' price to the poor, both the deceased and the poor would benefit from it.

(6) We neither coat graves with paint or gypsum nor build over them, for the Prophet forbade so.

Q2: Is it permissible to specifically travel to visit graves?

A2: It is forbidden to travel to visit graves, especially for seeking the dead's blessings or asking their supplication even if the dead is a prophet or a righteous person. Allah, the Exalted, said,

{وَمَا آتَاكُمُ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ فَانْتَهُوا}

"And whatever the Messenger has given you - take; and what he has forbidden you - refrain from."
(Surat Al-Hashr: 7)

The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said,

"لا تُشَدُّ الرحال إلا إلى ثلاثة مساجد: المسجد الحرام، ومسجدي هذا والمسجد الأقصى"

"No (religious) journey is to be undertaken but for three mosques: Sacred Mosque, this mosque of mine, and Al-Aqsa Mosque." [Narrated by Al-Bukhāri and Muslim]

According to this hadith, traveling to Medina should be intended to visit the Prophet's Mosque, not his grave, for praying in his Mosque is better than a thousand prayers elsewhere. Upon entering his mosque, one greets the Prophet ﷺ with peace.

Calling to Allah: Definition and Rulings

Q1: What is the ruling on calling to Islam?

A1: It is every Muslim's duty to whom Allah granted the Quran and the Prophet's Sunnah. Every Muslim is commanded to call to Allah and stick to its requirements. Allah, the Almighty, said:

{ادْعُ إِلَى سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحُكْمَةِ وَالْمَوْعِظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ}

"Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good instruction." (Surat An-Nahl: 125)

Allah, the Almighty, said,

{وَجَاهِدُوا فِي اللَّهِ حَقَّ جِهَادِهِ}

"And strive for Allāh with the striving due to Him." (Surat Al-Hajj: 78)

Thus, every Muslim has to take part in all forms of jihad as much as he can, especially at times when

Muslims need to work for Islam, call to Allah, and strive for His sake. This is obligatory for every Muslim. He is sinful and negligent in Allah's rights if he falls short or abandons it.

Q2: Is it sufficient for a person to reform himself?

A2: One has to begin by reforming himself first then reforming others as Allah, the Exalted, said:

{وَلْتَكُنْ مِنْكُمْ أُمَّةٌ يَدْعُونَ إِلَى الْخَيْرِ وَيَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ
وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ}

"And let there be [arising] from you a nation inviting to [all that is] good, enjoining what is right and forbidding what is wrong, and those will be the successful." (Surat Aal-'Imran: 104)

The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said,

"مَنْ رَأَى مِنْكُمْ مُنْكَرًا فَلْيُغَيِّرْهُ بِيَدِهِ، فَإِنْ لَمْ يَسْتَطِعْ فَبِلِسَانِهِ، فَإِنْ لَمْ يَسْتَطِعْ فَبِقَلْبِهِ،
وَذَلِكَ أَوْعَفُ الْإِيمَانِ"

"Whoever of you sees an evil, let him change it with his hand. If he is not able to do so, then [let him change it] with his tongue. If he is not able to do so, then [let him change it] with his heart, which is the weakest degree of faith." (Narrated by Muslim)

The Invocation Which Is Answered

«اللهم إني عبدك، وابنُ عبدك، وابنُ أَمَتِكَ، ناصيتي بيدك، ماضٍ فيَّ حكمك،
عَدْلٌ فيَّ قضاؤك، أسألك بكلِّ اسمٍ هُوَ لك، سميت به نفسك، أو أنزلته في كتابك،
أو علَّمته أحدًا من خلقك، أو استأثرت به في علم الغيب عندك، أن تجعل القرآن
ربيع قلبي، ونور صَدْرِي، وَجَلَاءَ حُرْنِي، وَذَهَابَ هَمِّي - إِلَّا أَذْهَبَ اللَّهُ هَمَّهُ
وَحُرْنَهُ، وَأَبْدَلَهُ مَكَانَهُ فَرَجًا»

‘O Allaah, I am your slave and the son of your slave and your female slave. My progress is in Your Command, your judgment is effective regarding me, and just is Your decree. I ask You by each of Your Names, by which You have called Yourself or revealed in Your Book, or which You have taught to one of Your creatures, or which You have chosen to keep in Your Secret Knowledge to make the Qur’aan, the joy of my heart the light of my eyes, which removes my grief and drives away my sorrow.’ Allah will replace it with happiness.”
(Narrated by Imaam Ahmad)

Index

Meaning of Islam and Faith.....	3
The Right of Allaah Upon His Slaves	7
Forms of Tawheed and Its Benefits.....	10
Conditions for Allaah's Acceptance of Our Deeds.....	14
Loyalty and Disavowal in Islam	16
Allies of the Most Merciful and Allies of Satan	18
Major Shirk.....	19
Types of Major Shirk.....	22
Minor Shirk	33
Seeking Intercession.....	36
Jihaad, Walaa`, and Hukm.....	41
Acting in accordance With the Qur`aan and Hadeeth	44
Sunnah and Bid'ah	50
Graves: Visiting, blessings, and torture	52
Calling to Allah: Definition and Rulings	55
The Invocation Which Is Answered	56