

# THE KEY TO KNOWLEDGE

## How to Understand Islaam Correctly

Shaykh Muhammad Al- Malki

### Dars 1- `Aqeedah: The Principles of `Aqeedah and How to Understand Tawheed

02/01/2011

To understand the meaning of Islaam properly one needs to learn Arabic - not necessarily to be fluent in Arabic but to know enough to understand the other fields of knowledge, the likes of the principles of fiqh, `aqeedah, usool, tafseer, and hadeeth, and then you come gradually to know Islaam as a whole unit.

The word `Aqeedah comes from **عَقَدَ — يَعْقِدُ** (*`Aqida-Ya`qidu*). It means that you tie a knot on your heart upon one certain way of belief. This way of belief is called At-Tawheed and it means to single out Allaah (Azza wa Jall) i.e. to worship only one. The one you should worship must deserve to be worshipped. Allaah said:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اعْبُدُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿٢١﴾ الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمْ  
الْأَرْضَ فِرَاشًا وَالسَّمَاءَ بِنَاءً وَأَنْزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَخْرَجَ بِهِ مِنَ الثَّمَرَاتِ رِزْقًا لَكُمْ فَلَا تَجْعَلُوا  
لِلَّهِ أَنْدَادًا وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٢٢﴾

**O mankind! Worship your Lord (Allaah), Who created you and those who were before you so that you may become Al-Muttaqûn. Who has made the earth a resting place for you, and the sky as a canopy, and sent down water (rain) from the sky and brought forth therewith fruits as a provision for you. Then do not set up rivals unto Allaah (in worship) while you know (that He Alone has the right to be worshipped. (Al-Baqarah 2:21-22)**

Allaah called on mankind (And notice He did not say, “Worship Allaah” but rather, “Worship your Lord, the One Who created you”), and then He described Himself by some of His Attributes and blessings that He bestowed upon the creation. And this is one of the Principles: Who is your Lord? (Others being: What is the proof that Islaam is the true religion? That Muhammad [sallallaahu`alayhi wa sallam] is the true Messenger and that Allaah is the only One that deserves to be worshipped and everything else about Islaam?)

As for how do we believe that Allaah is our Lord – **that is by the way He described Himself in this Aayah** . He is the One who created you and those that were before you.

*Beginning students need to know how to understand the `Aqeedah. To understand it in the way that Abu Bakr understood it-and he was a very fluent Arabic speaker, and at the same time Bilal the Abyssinian slave understood it, and Suhaib from the Romans, and Salmaan who was Farsian ...How did all these Sahaba understand it? If you understand the Arabic you can begin to understand it the way that the companions understood it.*

Allaah is saying in this aayah: “O Mankind worship your Lord who created you...” and what does this mean to us? It means that our Lord is the one who created us , the one who sustains us and the one who has full

control over us from the beginning until the Day of Resurrection. What was the need for mentioning: "...and those who were before you?" It shows that what people are worshipping of the false deities are things that were inherited from the people before them. So they are not the ones who innovated it but rather they inherited the belief from those before them. If they were correct then where are they now? Who caused their life and who caused their death? Believing that Allaah is the One who causes the life and the death is one aspect of `Aqeedah.

*You do not need to read the big books to understand the `Aqeedah properly. The big books are to give you protection from influence of the deviance that comes from the deviants. It is like food and medicine. You don't take medicine to live but to cure and the food is to live. This information presented here is the food to feed your heart to help you understand the `Aqeedah. The big books are medications either as protection like the vaccinations or to remove the illness that is already there like the one who knows Allaah but he has doubts in his heart about Allaah. First we need to know Allaah.*

The `Ulemaa have explained that the first command in the Qur'aan is on page four in Aayah 21 of Surah Al-Baqarah. Everything that came before that from Surah al-Faatihah and the beginning of Surah Al-Baqarah is information. But this Aayah is the first to contain a command. It did not say, "Oh you believer!" but it said, "Oh you mankind!" It did not say, "Worship Allaah!" but it said, "Worship your Lord! The one who created you and those that were before you." And from this we see that it is very simple to know our Lord.

Jubayr ibn Mu'tim was one of the Arabs and before he became a companion of the Prophet- (sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam), he had heard about Rasoolullah (sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam) and what he came with and he found it interesting because it was something new so he wanted to go and meet him (sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam). The people warned him against that saying that Ar Rasool (sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam) was a magician and a poet but he was not deterred as he knew the speech of magicians and poets. He found Ar-Rasool (sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam) standing in the Maghrib prayer reciting Surah At-Toor until he came to the Aayah 35 of Surah At-Tuur: "**Or were they created by nothing or were they themselves the creators**" – and upon hearing these words, he felt for the first time that the faith entered his heart. (This hadeeth comes in the two Saheehs) Anyone with common sense could not believe that they were just created by nothing. No one would believe that something that was a box of chocolates one day could be a beautiful computer with internet the next day so how can they not believe that there is a Creator?

In the time of Abu Haneefah, some philosophers who denied that there is a God, came to debate with him about the existence of Allaah, but he told them his mind was too busy thinking of a problem. When they asked him what it was he told them it was about a big ship sailing from one side of the river in Iraq to the other loading and unloading without a sailor. They asked him how that could be and he replied: Subhaanallaah and you are saying that the sun and the moon and everything is going without a founder – and from this they knew they were wrong.

Another story is of an illiterate Bedouin who – seeing footsteps and dung of camels in the sand, thought that if the dung have only proved that camels crossed this place and the footsteps have only proved that people have crossed this place, then how could these beautiful skies with the stars and earth with the rivers and the whole world not prove that there is one great founder of it – He is Al-`Aleem wal-Khabeer. (Our shaykh related the story in eloquent Arabic and it has this meaning).

In the Verse 21 of Surah Al-Baqarah, Allaah is addressing "mankind" whoever they are and at whatever level of knowledge – whether an illiterate or a scholar: "O mankind! Worship your Lord (Allaah), Who created you and those who were before you so that you may become Al-Muttaqûn." – So that you may be from the pious ones. Muttaqoon can be the pious ones and more than that such as those who fear Allaah and His punishment and

anger. Then Allaah gave more descriptions: “Who has made the earth a resting place for you, and the sky as a canopy, and sent down water (rain) from the sky and brought forth therewith fruits as a provision for you.” “Firaash” (the earth as a resting place) means mattress or place you lay to rest. And after mentioning the bounties He has blessed them with, He directed the nice statement to His slaves, “then do not set up rivals in His worship, while you know that He Alone has the right to be worshipped”

We can understand the `Aqeedah by reflecting on these types of verses from the Qur'aan as Allaah commanded us to reflect upon it:

﴿ أَفَلَا يَتَدَبَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ أَمْ عَلَى قُلُوبٍ أَقْفَالُهَا ﴾

**Do they not then think deeply in the Qur'ân, or are their hearts locked up (from understanding it)? (Muhammad 47:24)**

Allaah has mentioned in many verses in the Qur'aan such as Surah Al-Furqaan, and in Surah Al-Waaqi`ah:

﴿ أَفَرَأَيْتُمْ مَا تُمْنُونَ ﴿٥٨﴾ أَأَنْتُمْ تَخْلُقُونَهُ ؕ أَمْ نَحْنُ الْخَالِقُونَ ﴿٥٩﴾ نَحْنُ قَدَرْنَا بَيْنَكُمْ الْمَوْتَ وَمَا نَحْنُ بِمَسْبُوقِينَ ﴿٦٠﴾ عَلَيَّ أَنْ نُبَدِّلَ أَمْثَلَكُمْ وَنُنشِئَكُمْ فِي مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٦١﴾ وَلَقَدْ عَلِمْتُمُ النَّشْأَةَ الْأُولَىٰ فَلَوْلَا تَذَكَّرُونَ ﴿٦٢﴾ أَفَرَأَيْتُمْ مَا تَحْرُثُونَ ﴿٦٣﴾ أَأَنْتُمْ تَزْرَعُونَهُ ؕ أَمْ نَحْنُ الزَّارِعُونَ ﴿٦٤﴾ لَوْ نَشَاءُ لَجَعَلْنَاهُ حُطَامًا فَظَلْتُمْ تَفَكَّهُونَ ﴿٦٥﴾ إِنَّا لَمُعْرِمُونَ ﴾

**Then tell Me (about) the (human) semen that you emit. (58) Is it you who create it (i.e. make this semen into a perfect human being), or are We the Creator? (59) We have decreed death to you all, and We are not outstripped, (60) To transfigure you and create you in (forms) that you know not. (61) And indeed, you have already known the first form of creation (i.e. the creation of Adam), why then do you not remember (or take heed)? (62) Then tell Me about seed that you sow in the ground. (63) Is it you that make it grow, or are We the Grower? (64) Were it Our Will, We could crumble it to dry pieces, and you would be regretful (or left in wonderment). (65) (Saying): "We are indeed Mughramûn (i.e. ruined or have lost the money without any profit, or are punished by the loss of all that we spend for cultivation)! (Al-Waaqi`ah 56: 58-64)**

Reflect on the beautiful Speech of Allaah Ta`Aalaa and by this you will understand the `Aqeedah and you will establish it and have it firm in your heart. It is not something that you cannot know except through a long process - no it is very simple. The meaning of it is that it is very easy to know at-Tawheed – the `Aqeedah. It is easy for anyone to know Who is the Lord and who they should worship.

It came in a Hadeeth that the Rasool (sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam) met a man who used to worship seven gods and asked him: “How many gods do you worship?” The man said: “Seven – Six in the earth and one in the heavens.” By the one in the heavens he meant Allaah. So Rasool (sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam) asked him who did he call on in times of need and the man said he called on the one in the heavens. Then Ar-Rasool

(sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam) told him to leave the worship for Him Alone. (This hadeeth is recorded in Sunan Abu Dawood).

This is the key to the knowledge of who is your Lord. When you understand it very well then you can go and look for the details of `Aqeedah like the definition of Tawheed and the categories of Tawheed. But in order to have this eemaan stable on your heart, you need to know the meanings of these Aayaat. This is not difficult – even for beginners. It is from the very basics that was given to the Arabs such as Abu Bakr and `Umar, and the non-Arabs as well, the likes of Bilal and Suhayb, and Salman. (Allaah be pleased with them all). Even the kuffaar understood it but their desires stopped them from accepting it.

﴿ سُرِّيهِمْ ءَايَاتِنَا فِي الْأَفَاقِ وَفِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ حَتَّىٰ يَتَبَيَّنَ لَهُمْ أَنَّهُ الْحَقُّ ۗ أَوَلَمْ يَكْفِ بِرَبِّكَ أَنَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ ﴿٥٣﴾ أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ فِي مَرِيَّةٍ مِّنْ لِّقَاءِ رَبِّهِمْ ۗ أَلَا إِنَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ مُّحِيطٌ ﴾

**We will show them Our Signs in the universe, and in their own selves, until it becomes manifest to them that this (the Qur'ân) is the truth. Is it not sufficient in regard to your Lord that He is a Witness over all things? (53) Verily, they are in doubt concerning the Meeting with their Lord? (i.e. Resurrection after their death, and their return to their Lord). Verily! He it is Who is surrounding all things! (Fusilaat 41:53.54)**

Aayah 53 shows us the importance of thinking about yourself and how you are created. And in Aayah 54 we understand that Allaah is surrounding all things by His Knowledge and by His Power Subhaanahu wa T`aalaa. So with this type of information we can understand the basics of our `Aqeedah- our creed.

## ﴿END OF DARS ONE﴾

Al-Hamdulillaahi Rabbil-`Aalameen was- salaatu was- salaam `alaa Sayidanaa Muhammad