

أركان الإسلام - الشَّهَادَةُ وَالصَّلَاةُ  
PILLARS OF ISLAM  
SHAHADAH  
AND SALAH

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## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

The religion of Islam leads to a life of peace and safety in this world and as well as in the Hereafter. To understand Islam, one should emphasize upon the basic belief and its principles. In this book, out of five pillars of Islam, *Shahadah* and *Salât* have been dealt with to present the true significance of Islam and the effects of firm belief in all the aspects of human life.

*Shahadah* is the witness of believing in one and the true Creator -- the Islamic Monotheism. This belief is the centre point of Islamic Faith. Accepting this belief means the negating of polytheism -- the setting up of partners with Allah in all His Attributes. The belief in Islamic Monotheism creates a tremendous effect in a human being regarding all of his actions and motives.

*Salat* is the worship enjoined upon a believer, and it is a means of showing his obedience in words and deeds to his Lord and thus achieving His nearness. Through *Salat* a man acquires spiritual strength towards peace and happiness. It also keeps him away from evil deeds and sins.

We hope that the reader will benefit in his belief and deeds by studying this book and understanding the true aspects of Faith and worship.

**Abdul Malik Mujahid**  
General Manager

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ISLAM

In order to have the right idea about the religion of Islâm it is necessary to understand the true significance of the word "Islâm". The word Islâm means: to 'Surrender', to 'Submit', to 'Yield'. The Arabic noun derived from it (*Salâm* or *Salâmah*) means peace, safety, salvation and greeting.

The religion of Islâm is characterised by absolute submission to the Will of Allah. Its principles are endowed in the Noble Qur'ân, which makes a complete system that deals with all walks of human life.

The wonderful adaptability of Islâmic rules to all ages, places, nations and circumstances, their entire agreement with the light of reason and the absence of all mysterious ideas prove that Islâm is a Divine dispensation.

Islâm signifies a religion of right-thinking, right-speaking and right-doing, founded on Divine Love, universal charity and human brotherhood. A true Muslim is fully conscious of the fact that present life is the seed-ground of the future life. Out of this belief he endeavours with honesty, sincerity and devotion to implement the teachings of his Lord in all spheres of his everyday individual and social life, in order to attain the Mercy of Allah, and obtain salvation and success in this world and in the Hereafter.

Islâm attains this object by adopting the principle that man will be judged by his work alone. The Noble Qur'ân says:

﴿ وَأَنْ لَيْسَ لِلْإِنْسَانِ إِلَّا مَا سَعَى ○ وَأَنْ سَعِيَهُ سَوْفَ يُرَى ○ ثُمَّ يُجْزَاهُ

الْجَزَاءَ الْآوْفَى ○ وَأَنْ إِلَى رَبِّكَ الْمُنْتَهَى ﴾

“...And that man can have nothing but what he does (good or bad). And that his deeds will be seen. Then he will be recompensed with a full and the best recompense. And that to your Lord (Allah) is the End (Return of everything).” (V.53:39-42).

The Noble Qur’ân states that the life of every one in the Hereafter, with its reward or punishment, whether abiding in Paradise or in Hell, depends upon the course of his life in this world. The All-Mighty Allah says:

﴿ فَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ خَيْرًا يَرَهُ ○ وَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ

ذَرَّةٍ شَرًّا يَرَهُ ﴾

“So whosoever does good equal to the weight of an atom (or a small ant), shall see it. And whosoever does evil equal to the weight of an atom (or a small ant), shall see it.” (V.99:7,8)

This belief leads a Muslim to the belief in the Oneness of Allah, in His Mercy, Love and His Sustenance; and to the practice of goodness, universal charity, patience and firmness in the trials of life.

The religion of Islâm has a distinctive appellation. It is not derived from the name of the Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم or any other Prophet whereas other religions like Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism and Zoroastrianism etc. are known by the names of their respective teachers. Some people may mistakenly or deliberately call the religion of Islâm as Muhammadanism, after the name of Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم. As a matter of fact, the Prophet himself repeatedly stated that he was only a servant of Allah and His Messenger.

Another important significance of Islâm is that it interprets the true nature of man and establishes co-ordination and peace between him and his nature, and regulates his course of life according to the nature (*Fitrah*) in which Allah has created man. The Noble Qur’ân says:

﴿ فَأَقِمَّ وَجْهَكَ لِلدِّينِ حَنِيفًا فِطْرَتَ اللَّهِ الَّتِي فَطَرَ النَّاسَ عَلَيْهَا لَا

يُبْدِلُ لِخَلْقِ اللَّهِ ذَلِكَ الدِّينَ الْقَيِّمُ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا

يَعْلَمُونَ ﴾

“So set you (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم) your face towards the religion of pure Islamic Monotheism *Hanifan* (worship none but Allah Alone) Allah’s *Fitrah* (i.e. Allah’s Islamic Monotheism), with which He has created mankind. No change let there be in *Khalq-illah* (i.e. the Religion of Allah — Islamic Monotheism), that is the straight religion, but most of men know not.” (V.30:30).

We have seen in this verse that there is no conflict or contrast between the religion of Allah and the original nature of man, because He revealed the religion and He created man’s nature. The Noble Qur’ân declares that Islâm is the ‘Straight Path’ and the standard religion:

﴿ وَأَنَّ هَذَا صِرَاطِي مُسْتَقِيمًا فَاتَّبِعُوهُ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا السُّبُلَ فَتَفَرَّقَ بِكُمْ

عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ ﴾

“And verily, this is my Straight Path, so follow it, and follow not (other) paths, for they will separate you away from His Path...” (V.6:153).

There is but one true religion, the universal religion for all mankind, and the Qur’ân calls it “Islâm”. This is the straight and true natural Divine Guidance for all, without distinction of race, colour, country or nationality. It was the religion preached by all the earlier Prophets. It was the







