The Bounty & Favor in Concise Notes on

Uṣūl as-Sunnah

By Imam Ahmad

By Shaykh 'Abdur-Rahman Muḥīyyud-Dīn
# Transliteration Table

## Consonants

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## Diphthongs

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## Glyphs

- ﺪ Sallálláhu 'alayhi wa sallam (May Alláh's praise & salutations be upon him)
- ﺪ 'Alayhis-saláms (Peace be upon him)
- ﺪ Radiyalláhu 'anhu / ﺪ Radiyalláhu 'anhu (May Alláh be pleased with him/her)
- ﺪ Radiyalláhu 'anhum (May Alláh be pleased with them)
- ﺪ Rahimálláh (May Alláh have mercy on him)
- ﺪ Subhánnáhu wa-Álá (Glorious and Exalted is He)
- ﺪ 'Azza wa-Jall (The Mighty and Majestic)
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All praise is for Allāh, Lord of all that exists. May blessings and peace be upon the noblest of the prophets and the best of the messengers. As to proceed:

This is a concise treatise regarding The Foundations of the Sunnah by the eminent Imām, Aḥmad bin Ḥanbal, may Allāh have mercy upon him and make Paradise his abode and final resting place, and may Allāh gather us and him in the company of the prophets, the truthful, the martyrs, and the righteous; and what excellent companions they are.

It clarifies the foundations of the correct Islamic creed which are obligatory upon the Muslim to believe. Some of those beloved to me from the students requested, while studying it, that I write an explanation of it; so I sought Allāh’s help in doing so, and Allāh is the granter of success.

The treatise is regarding the foundations of the correct creed, since Imām Aḥmad is the Imām of the Sunnah in truth. And he needs no introduction, for he is the well-known cultivating Imām, the figurehead of the well-known juristic school; he clarified [these foundations] out of sincere advice to the ummah and to fulfill the trust. It is a treatise that aids the beginner in understanding the foundations of the magnificent Islamic religion, since it enlightens him to the teachings of the religion and its fundamentals, and it is a reminder to the seasoned one.

The Imām mentioned some issues, and although they are not from the creed, the people of innovation have fallen into opposition regarding them, [so] he mentioned them. It is as if he considered them to be a distinguishing factor between Ahlus-Sunnah and the
people of innovation. He likewise placed affairs in this treatise from the foundations of the Sunnah that appear to contradict the foundations of the creed, such as the issue of fighting the highway robbers and the Khawārij—if they confront the person, then fighting them and defending himself and his wealth is something commanded within the legislation. So he mentioned this, and Allah knows best, because fighting the Muslims is not permissible to begin with, and perhaps the Muslims will find it difficult to fight against the likes of these people, due to adherence to the statement of the Prophet ﷺ:

لا يحل دم أنام مسلم إلا بأحدى ثلاث: الثياب الزاني، والنفس بالنفس، والترك لدينه المفارق للجماعة.

The blood of the Muslim is not lawful (to shed) except in one of three cases: (1) The married (or previously married) fornicator, (2) a life for a life, and (3) the one who abandons his religion and separates from the body of the Muslims.¹

The author mentioned fighting the highway robbers and the Khawārij in this treatise because the Muslim believes in the sanctity of the Muslim’s blood, and thus it is not lawful (to shed it), and fighting the likes of these people—if confronted by them—is legislatively permissible (as shall be seen in the treatise) out of self-defense and in defense of one’s wealth and honor, as is authentically reported from the Prophet ﷺ.

The treatise, in general, is a valuable book that the Muslim is in need of studying so that he may be upon insight in the affair of his religion and its teachings and foundations, and thus be saved from Allah’s anger; indeed, Allah is the guide to the Straight Path.

¹ Reported by al-Bukhāri (#6878) and Muslim (#1676) from the hadith of ‘Abdullāh bin Mas‘ūd.
Introduction of the Verifier, Shaykh Khalid 'Uthmān

All praise is for Allāh, Lord of all that exists; may blessings and peace be upon the seal of the prophets and messengers, and upon all of his family. As to proceed:

The scholars of the Ṭabī‘ūn and their followers saw fit to name their books on creed “As-Sunnah” to distinguish the signposts of the Saved Sect from those of the divergent groups. From the earliest of these books is Usul as-Sunnah by the Imām of the Sunnah, Āḥmad bin Muḥammad bin Ḥanbal [a].

The Imām gathered within it the most important foundations that the deviant groups—from the Jahmiyyah, the Mu'tazilah, the Murji‘ah, the Ṭāfṣir, and other than them—have opposed.

This is the affair, and I have endeavored in this print to verify the text by way of two handwritten manuscripts, along with due consideration to the manuscript of (al-Maktabah) az-Zāhiriyah, considering it to be the foundational manuscript; and I compared them to the narration of Usul as-Sunnah in Sharh Usul al-I'tiqād by al-Lālikā’i, as well as in Tābaqāt al-Ḥanābilah by al-Qādi Ibn Abī Ya’lā and the print of al-Walid bin Muhammad Nabīh.

I didn’t bother to make comments and thus overshadow the text; this is so the student of knowledge who wishes to memorize the text may benefit without distractions. Perhaps Allāh will facilitate another print in which I can add comments and explanations. A number of contemporary scholars have explained this text in recorded lessons. From them are:

1) Al-‘Allāmah al-Muḥaddith Rabi’ bin Hādi al-Madkhali
2) Al-‘Allāmah Zayd bin Hādi al-Madkhali

3) Al-‘Allāmah ‘Ubayd al-Jābiri

It is upon the student of knowledge to take care in studying these explanations, being assisted by this verified manuscript so he may extract the most complete benefit possible, by the favor of Allāh.\(^1\)

And may blessings and peace be upon Muḥammad and his family.

Abū ‘Abdul-A’lā Khālid bin Muḥammad bin ‘Uthmān al-Miṣrī

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\(^1\) In addition to these explanations, there is the explanation of our shaykh, Doctor ‘Abdur-Rahmān bin Muḥiyyud-Dīn, may Allāh preserve him, for which this verified manuscript is the basis, entitled *Al-Fadl wa-l-Minnah bi-Sharḥ Uṣūl as-Sunnah.*
In the name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy:

May prayers and peace be upon the Messenger of Allah; to proceed:

I have granted permission to the brother Abu Musa Raha al-Amriki to translate the book Explanation of Usūl as-Sunnah by Imām Ahmad, which I explained and taught in Masjid 'Umar bin al-Khattāb in Madinah. There is no problem with him translating it with a sound (correct) translation, and may Allah bring benefit by way of it.

I ask Allah, the Majestic and High, to grant us and him tawfiq and uprightness, and Allah is the granter of success.

‘Abdur-Rahmān bin Šāliḥ Muḥiyyud-Dīn
Al-Madinah an-Nabawiyyah
17 Sha’bān 1437 AH
قال الشيوخ الإمام أبو compañero Nombre Completo de la relación

الْمَلِك بن عَلِيّ بن مَحْمَدٍ الهَمْدَانِيُّ:

حَدَّثَنَا الشَّيْخُ أبو عَبْد الله يَحْيَى بن أبي الْحَسَنٍ بن البَّاَّ، قَالَ: أَخْبَرَنَا

وَالْإِبْرَاهِيمُ أَبُو عَلِيّ الْحَسَنٍ بن أَحْمَدٍ بن عَبْد الله بن البَّاَّ، قَالَ: أَخْبَرَنَا أبو الْحَسَنٍ عليه نِعْمَةٌ بن عَبْد الله بن يَسْرَانِ الْمُعَدِّلُ، قَالَ: أَخْبَرَنَا

عَمْانٍ بن أَحْمَدٍ بن الْسُّكَّاكُ، قَالَ: حَدَّثَنَا أبو مُحَمَّد الْحَسَنٍ بن عَبْد

الْوَهَابِ بن أبي العْقَبِ، قرَأَةً عَلَيْهِ مِن كِتَابٍ فِي شَهْرٍ رَيْضٍ أَوْلِيٌّ مِن سَنَةٍ

كَثِيرٍ وَهُدِيَّاتٍ وَمَانِيَاتٍ، قَالَ: حَدَّثَنَا أبو حَجَّار مُحَمَّدٍ بن سُلَيْمَانٍ الْبَنُقَرّيُّ

الْعَصِيِّرِيُّ بَنِيبَيْسَ قَالَ: حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُوُنَّ بن مَالِك الْعَطْفَانَ، قَالَ: سَمِعْتُ أَبا

عَبْد الله أَحْمَد بن مُحَمَّد بن حَنْبِي رَضِي الله عَنْهُ يَقُولُ:

أُصِلَ الْمَتَّى عَبْد الله، التَّمَشَكُّ بِمَا كان على أَصْحَاب رَسُول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم، والإِقْرَاءَ بِهِم، وَتَرْك الْبَيْعَة، وَكُلُّ بَدْعَةٍ فِي ضَلَالٍ، وَتَرْكَ الْحُصُمُوْتَاتِ، وَالْجَلُوسَ مَعَ أَصْحَاب الْأَهْوَاءِ، وَتَرْكَ الْبَقْرَاءِ وَالْجَدَالِ

وَالْحُصُمُوْتَاتِ فِي الْدِّينِ. وَالْسَّنَةُ عَبْد الله آثَارٍ رَسُول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم، وَالْسَّنَةُ تَفْصِيلُ الْقُرْآنِ، وَهَيِّنَتُ فِي الْسَّنَةِ الْقِيَاسِ، وَلاَ تُضَرِّبُ لَهَا الأَمْثَالُ، وَلَا تَذْرِكْ بِالْعُقُولِ وَلَا الْأَهْوَاءِ، إِنَّمَا هُوَ الْاَيَتُّ

وَتَرْكَ الْعُهوَاَيْ السَّنَةُ الْلَّاِرَمْهَةُ الَّتِي مِنْ تَرْكُ مِنْهَا خَصْصْلاً. لَمْ يَقْبَلْهَا وَيَوْمَ

بِهَا. لَمْ يَكْنِ مِنْ أَهْلَهَا الأَيَامُ بِالْقُدُّر حُيُورٍ وَشَرَّمُ وَمِنْ السَّنَةِ الْلَّاِرَمْهَةُ

الَّتِي مِنْ تَرْكُ مِنْهَا خَصْصْلاً. لَمْ يَقْبَلْهَا وَيَوْمَ بِهَا. لَمْ يَكْنِ مِنْ أَهْلَهَا:

الْأَيَامُ بِالْقُدُّر حُيُورٍ وَشَرَّمُ وَالْتَّسْمَيْنَةُ بالْحَدِيْدِ فِيهِ، وَالأَيَامُ بِهَا، لَل
THE BOUNTY & FAVOR IN CONCISE NOTES ON UȘUL AS-SUNNAH

بَلْ ْلَمْ ْوَلَا َكَيْفَ، ِإِنَّمَا ِهِوَ الْتَّصَدِّيْقُ َوَالْإِمَانُ بِهَا، َوَمِنْ لَمْ ْيُعْفَ ْتَفْسِيرُ َالْحُدْيَثِ َوَبِيْلَغَةِ عَقْلُهُ ْفَقْدُ ْكُفِيَ ذَٰلِكَ ْأَحْكَمُ ْنَّهُ، َفَعَلَّهُ الْإِمَانُ بِهِ َوَالْتَسْلِيمِ ْلَهُ، َمِثْلُ ْحُدْيَثِ َالْصَّادِقِ َالْمُصْدِقُ ْلَهُ، َوَمَنْ َكَانَ ْمَثْلُهُ ْفِي َالْقُدْرِ َوَمِثْلُ ْأَحْدَاثِ ِرَوْتِيْهِ ْكُلُّهَا، َوَإِنَّ تَأْتِ عَنْ َالْأَسْمَاعِ َوَالْبَصْرَةِ ْمِنْهَا ِالْمُسْتَمَعُ، َوَإِنَّمَا َعَلَىِّهِ ِالْإِمَانُ بِهَا، َوَأَنَّ ْلا ْيَرَدُّ ْمِنْهَا َحُرُفًا ْوَاحِدًا َوَغَيْرُهَا ْمِنْ ْأَحْدَاثِ ِالْمَآثِرَ ْعَنْ َعَقْلِهَا، َأَنَّ ْلا ْيُخَاصِمُ أَحَدًا َوَلَا ْيَنَاعِزُهُ، َوَلَا ْيَقْعُلُ ْجَدَالًا. َفَإِنَّ ِكَلَامَ ْفِي َالْقُدْرِ َوَالْرَّوْتِيْهِ َوَالْقُرَّانِ َوَغَيْرُهَا ْمِنْ ِالسُّنْنِ ِمَكْرُوْهُ َوَمَشْهُرُ ْعَنْهُ، َلَا ْبِكَانُ ْصَاحِبٌ ِبِكَلَامِهِ َالْعَلَّةِ َفِي ْأَهْلِ ِالسُّنْنِ ْحَتَّى ْيُقُولُ ْجَدَالًا َوَبَصْرَةً ْوَغَيْرُهَا ْمِنْ ْأَحْدَاثِ ِبِكَلَامِهِ َكَلَامُ ِاللَّهِ َوَلَا ِبِمَخْلُوقٍ َوَالْقُرَّانِ َكَلَامُ ِاللَّهِ َوَلَا ْبِمَخْلُوقٍ َوَلَا ْيُضَعُّ ْأَنْ ْيُقُولُ ْلَكَ ْمَخْلُوقٍ ْأَوْ َلَكَ ْمَخْلُوقٍ َوَلَا ْيُضَعُّ ْأَنْ ْيُقُولُ ْلَكَ ْمَخْلُوقٍ ْأَوْ َلَكَ ْمَخْلُوقٍ َوَلَا ْيُضَعُّ ْأَنْ ْيُقُولُ ْلَكَ ْمَخْلُوقٍ ْأَوْ َلَكَ ْمَخْلُوقٍ َوَلَا ْيُضَعُّ ْأَنْ ْيُقُولُ ْلَكَ ْمَخْلُوقٍ ْأَوْ َلَكَ ْمَخْلُوقٍ، َوَإِنَّمَا ْهُوَ ْكَلَامُ ِاللَّهِ َفَهُذَا ْصَاحِبُ ِبِدْعَةٍ ْمِثْلُ ْمِنْ ْقَالَ ْهُوَ ْمَخْلُوقٍ. َوَإِنَّمَا ْهُوَ ْكَلَامُ ِاللَّهِ َلَا ْيُضَعُّ ْأَنْ ْيُقُولُ ْلَكَ ْمَخْلُوقٍ ْأَوْ َلَكَ ْمَخْلُوقٍ، َوَإِنَّمَا ْهُوَ ْكَلَامُ ِاللَّهِ َلَا ْيُضَعُّ ْأَنْ ْيُقُولُ ْلَكَ ْمَخْلُوقٍ ْأَوْ َلَكَ ْمَخْلُوقٍ، َوَإِنَّمَا ْهُوَ ْكَلَامُ ِاللَّهِ َلَا ْيُضَعُّ ْأَنْ ْيُقُولُ ْلَكَ ْمَخْلُوقٍ ْأَوْ َلَكَ ْمَخْلُوقٍ، َوَإِنَّمَا ْهُوَ ْكَلَامُ ِاللَّهِ َلَا ْيُضَعُّ ْأَنْ ْيُقُولُ ْلَكَ ْمَخْلُوقٍ ْأَوْ َلَكَ ْمَخْلُوقٍ، َوَإِنَّمَا ْهُوَ ْكَلَامُ ِاللَّهِ َلَا ْيُضَعُّ ْأَنْ ْيُقُولُ ْلَكَ ْمَخْلُوقٍ ْأَوْ َلَكَ ْمَخْلُوقٍ، َوَإِنَّمَا ْهُوَ ْكَلَامُ ِاللَّهِ َلَا ْيُضَعُّ ْأَنْ ْيُقُولُ ْلَكَ ْمَخْلُوقٍ ْأَوْ َلَكَ ْمَخْلُوقٍ.
الله يَكْلُمُ الْعَبَّادِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ لَيْسَ بَيْنَهُمْ وَيَيْتِهُ تُرْجُمَانُ، وَالإِيمَانُ بِوَلْدَ السُّمَائِلِ، وَالإِيمَانُ بِالْخُضُوعِ، وَالإِيمَانُ بِالْخُضُوعِ، وَأَنَّ يَرْسَلُ اللَّهُ خَوْصًا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ تَرْدُّ عَلَى أَمْثَلِهِ عَرْضًا مِّثْلُ طُولِهِ، مَسْبِيرًا شَهَرًا، أَيْتَهُ كَمَّدْ يُنْجِمُ السُّمَائِلَ عَلَى مَا صَحَّتْ عَلَيْهِ بِالْأَخْبَارِ مِنْ غَيْرِ وَجْهٍ، وَالإِيمَانُ بِعَذَابَ الْقُلُوبِ، وَأَنَّ هَذِهِ الْأَمْةَ تُقُرِّرُ فِي فَيْحَرَاهَا، وَتُتَشَالُ عَنِ الْإِيمَانِ وَالإِسْلَامِ، وَمِنْ رَبِّهِ وَمِنْ نَيْبِهِ وَيَبْيَاضُ مَنْ تَكَرَّرُ وَتَكْبِرُ، كَيْفَ شَاءَ اللَّهُ، وَكَيْفَ أَرَادَ، وَالإِيمَانُ بِوَالْتَصَدَّيْقِ بِهِ وَالإِيمَانُ بِشِفَاعَةِ النَّبِيِّ وَيَقُومُ يَتَرَجَّحُونَ مِنَ الْأَثَرِ بَعْدَ ما اِحْتَرَقَوْا وَصَارَوا فَحْمًا، فَيَكُونُ مِثْلُ يَتَرَجَّحُهُمْ إِلَى نَّهَرٍ عَلَى بَابِ الْجَنَّةِ كَمَا جَاءَ فِي الْأُثْرِ، كَيْفَ شَاءَ اللَّهُ، وَكَمَا شَاوَ، إِنَّمَا هُوَ إِلَى الْإِيمَانِ بِهِ وَالْتَصَدَّيْقِ بِهِ. الإِيمَانُ أَنَّ الْمُسْلِمِ الدِّجَالُ خَارِج، مَكْتُوبُ بِيْنَ عَنْيَنِهِ كَافِرُ وَالإِيمَانُ أَنَّ الْمُسْلِمِ الدِّجَالُ خَارِج، مَكْتُوبُ بِيْنَ عَنْيَنِهِ كَافِرُ وَالْجَاهِدِ أَنَّهُ جَاءَ فِيهِ، وَالإِيمَانُ أَنَّ ذُلُكَ كَابِنُ، وَيَنْبَتُ إِنَّ مَرْضًا عَلَيْهِ السَّلَاطِمُ يَنْبُأُ فِيْقَةً بِبَابِ لَدِّ. الإِيمَانُ قَوْلُ وَعَمَلُ، يَرِثُ وَيَنْفَضُ وَالإِيمَانُ قَوْلُ وَعَمَلُ، يَرِثُ وَيَنْفَضُ كَمَا جَاءَ فِي الْأَحْدَاثِ: أَكَمَّلُ المَوْفَقِينَ إِبَابًا أَحْسَسُهُمُ النُّفُوشُ - وَمَنْ تَرَكَ الْصَّلَاةِ فَقَدْ كَفَرَ وَلَسْنَ مِنَ الْأَعْمَالِ شَيْءًا تَرْكِهَا كَفَرًا أَلَّا الصَّلَاةُ، مِنْ تَرَكَهَا فَهُوَ كَافِرُ، وَقَدْ أَخْلَلَ اللَّهُ قَبْلَهُ. خَيَرَ هَذِهِ الْأَمْةَ بَعْدَ نَيْبِهَا أَبُو بَكْرُ الصَّدِيقُ، ثُمَّ عُمَّرُ بْنُ سَلَٰطِم، ثُمَّ عُمَّاْنُ بْنُ عَقْلَانَ وَخَيْرُ هَذِهِ الْأَمْةَ بَعْدَ نَيْبِهَا أَبُو بَكْرُ الصَّدِيقُ، ثُمَّ عُمَّرُ بْنُ سَلَٰطِم، ثُمَّ عُمَّاْنُ بْنُ عَقْلَانَ. ثُمَّ عُمَّاْنُ بْنُ عَقْلَانَ تَقْدِيمُ هُؤُلَاءِ الثَّلَاثَةُ بَعْدُ مَعَضَمَهُمُ الأَصْحَابُ رِسُوْلِ اللَّهِ ﷺ، لَمْ يَخْتَلُفُوا فِي ذَلِكَ، ثُمَّ بَعْدُ هُؤُلَاءِ الثَّلَاثَةُ أَصْحَابُ السُّلْطَانِ: عَلِيُّ بْنُ أَبِي طَالِبٍ، وَطَلَّبَةٌ، وَالْخَزَمِ، وَعَبْدُ الرَّحْمَنِ بْنُ عُوْفٍ، وَعَبْدُ مُحَمَّدٍ بْنُ سَلَٰطِمَ، وَعَبْدُ الْجُمَهُورِ، وَعَبْدُ الْخَالِدِ، وَكُلَّهُمُ إِسْمٌ، وَنَزَّلَ فِي ذَلِكَ إِلَى كِتَابِ يَوْمِ عَمَّرٍ: كَنَّا نَعَدْ رِسُوْلَ اللَّهِ ﷺ أَنْ أَصْحَابُهُ مَتَوَافِقُ أَبُو بَكْرٍ ثُمَّ عُمَّرُ ثُمَّ عُمَّاْنُ ثُمَّ نُسْكَتْ - ثُمَّ مَنْ بَعْدُ أَصْحَابُ السُّلْطَانِ أَهْلُ بَدْرٍ مِّنْ
المهاجرين، ثم أهل بدر من الأنصار من أصحاب رسول الله علیه قدر الهجرة والسباعية، أوئل فألرًا، ثم أفضل الناس بعد هؤلاء أصحاب رسول الله ঁالر الذي بُعث فيهم. وكم من صحبة سنة أو شهرًا أو يومًا أو ساعة، أو رأى فهو من أصحابه، له من الصحابة على قدر ما صحبه، وكانت سلبيته ممّه وسمع منه، ونظر الله نظرًا، فأَداهم صحبته هو أفضل من القرن الذين لم يروه، ولن قوا الله بجمع الأُمَاد، كان هؤلاء الذين صحبوا النبي ﷺ ورأوا وسمعوا منه، ومن رأى بعده وما بينه، ولم يروه ساعة، أفضل ليستحيه من التابعين، وله عملوا كل أعمال الخير السُمْع والطاعة للإمام وأمير المؤمنين والسمع والطاعة للأئمة وأمير المؤمنين الضر ولفاجر، ومن أول الخلافة، واجتمع الناس عليه، ورضا به، ومن عليهم بالضعف حتى صار خليفة، وستعي أمير المؤمنين، والعُزُوّ عاص مع الأمير إلى يوم القيامة الفجر والفاجر لا ينكر، وقسمة النفي وإقامة الحُرْدو إلى الإلبسة؛ ماس ليس لأخير أن يطعن عليهم، ولا يناري عليهم، ودفع الصدقات إليهم جائزة نافذة، من دفعها إليهم أجرات عنه، ثم كان أو فاجر، وصلاة الجماعة خلفه وخلف من ولاه، جائزة باقية ثابتة رّعْتَين، من أعادهما فهو متبعدُ تابع لآبار، مختلف للس신ة، ليس له من فضل الجماعة شيء؛ إذا لم ير الصلاة خلف الأئمة من كانوا يرضهم وفاجروهم، فالسِنَة، فإن يصلي معهم، ودينين بأنها ثابتة، لا يكون في صدرك من ذلك شك. ومن خرج على إمام من أئمة المسلمين وقد كان الناس إجتمعوا عليه وأفروه للجلافلة، بِأي قضى كان، بالصرة أو بالعلبة، فقد شن هذا الخُرْج عصا المسلمين، وخلف أئمة عن رسول الله ﷺ: فإن مات الخُرْج عليه مات ميتة جاهلية. ولا يحل فقتل السلوطان ولا الخُرْج عليه لأحد من الناس، فمن فعل ذلك فهو مبتعدُ على غير السنة والطريق، فقال الناس والخُرْج وفتى اللعنص والخُرْج جائر إذا عرضوا
للرجل في نفسه وماله، فلله أن يقاتل عن نفسه وماله، ويدفع عنها بكل ما يقدر، وليست له إذا فاز به أو تركه أن يبطلهم، ولا ينفع آثارهم، ليس لأحد إلا الإمام أو ولاة المسلمين، إنهما له أن يدفع عن نفسه في مقامه ذلك، ويدفع عنهما أن لا يقتل أحدا، فإن مات على يديه في دفعه عن نفسه في المعركة فأبعد الله المقتول، فإن قتل هذا في تلك الحالة وهو يدفع عن نفسه وماله، رجوت له السهادة، كما جاء في الأخواد، وجميع الآثار في هذا إنما أمر بقتله، ولم يأمر بقتله ولا إتباعه، ولا يجرح عليه إن ضرر أو كان جريحا، وإن أحده أسرى فليس له أن يقتلهم، ولا يقيم عليه الحجة، ولكن يرفع أمره إلى من وراء الله، فيحكم فيه، لا تشهد على أحد من أهل القيثاء يعمل بعمله بحثا ولا نار ولا نشيد على أحد من أهل القيثاء يعمل بعمله بحثا ولا نار ترجو للصالح ونخاف عليه، ونحاف على المسمى المذنب، وترجو له رحمة الله، ومن قبي الله بذنب يجنب له بي التار تمًا غير مصير عليه فإن الله يبوب عليه، ويقبل الثواب عن عباده، ويغفر عن السيئات، ومن قبيته وقد قيم عليه حد ذلك الذنب في الدنيا، فهو كفره، كما جاء في الخبر عن رسول الله ﷺ، ومن قبيته مصير غير تأب من الذنب التي قد استوجب بها العقوبة فامره إلى الله، إن شاء عذبه، وإن شاء عقرر له، ومن لقيت وهو كافر عذبه، ولم يغفر له، QR ، حق على من رأى وقد أحصى والرجم حق عن من رأى وقد أحصى إذا اعتذر أو قامت عليه بينه، وقد رفع رسول الله ﷺ، وقد رجمت اليتيمة الراسدون. النقاف وانتفاض الصحابة ومن انتقص أحدا من أصحاب رسول الله ﷺ، أو أبا نصر يحدث كان منه، أو ذكر مساعدة كان مبتعدا، حتى يترحم عليهم جميعا، ويتكون قلبه لهم سلما. والنقاف هو: الأكفر، أن يكفر بالله ويعبد غيره، ويشير الإسلام في العلانية، مثل المتناققين الذين كانوا على عهد رسول الله ﷺ. وقوله: شيخ عبد الرحمن محيي الدين
The Bounty & Favor in Concise Notes on Uṣūl al-Sunnah

...
The foundational principles of the Sunnah according to us are:

Clinging to what the Companions of the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ were upon and taking them as an example.

**Explanatıon**

The author began with clinging to what the Companions of the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ were upon, and this is Islām, for the Companions are the best of mankind after the prophets and messengers. This is due to the commendation of Allāh and His pleasure with them, for they had the soundest understanding of Islām of all the people. The Qurʾān was revealed among them; they comprehended it and acted upon it. And Islām is the Sunnah and the Sunnah is Islām, as is reported by Imām ash-Shāfiʿi; therefore, clinging to the Sunnah is, in reality, clinging to Islām.

Imām Ahmad mentioned the foundations of the Sunnah, meaning the foundations of Islām, and he mentioned from among them clinging to what the Companions were upon. This is because this is the first entry point into the understanding of Islām, and it is not possible to enter into Islām except by way of this door. The Companions are the first generation of Islām. Therefore, their understanding of Islām is the correct understanding, and their action is the correct action. Due to this, the author said, “...and taking them as an example.” Meaning, the person should make them an example and role model in his life and actions. This is because they witnessed the revelation and its descent, and they were present with the Messenger ﷺ. They accompanied him and they saw his actions;
thus, they acted as he acted.

Therefore, Islam is our affair and the Companions \(\text{ﷺ}\) are the witnesses; and they are the most trustworthy of witnesses, for Allah \(\text{ﷻ}\) has commended them in His divine revelation, wherein He said:

\[
\text{رضى الله عنهم ورضوا عنه} \]

\textbf{Allah is pleased with them and they are pleased with Him.}

\textit{[Surah al-Ma'idah 5:119]}

Also, the Messenger of Allah \(\text{ﷺ}\) commended them with his statement:

\textit{الله لله في أصحابي.}

\textbf{Fear Allah, fear Allah regarding the Companions.}\(^3\)

Therefore, he who reviles the Companions has reviled Islam, and he who curses them has cursed Islam; and he who curses Islam or reviles it is a disbelieving heretic.

\(^3\) Reported by Ibn Hibbân in his \textit{Sahih} (7256) from the hadith of 'Abdullâh bin Mughaffâl \(\text{ṣ}\). Graded weak by al-Albânî in \textit{As-Sîsilah ad-Da'îfah} (2901).
And the abandonment of innovation, for every innovation is misguidance.

EXPLANATION

Innovation is that which is invented into the religion in opposition to the legislation. This is because the legislation has been completed by Allâh, the Majestic and High, so it is not in need of any addition or alteration.

That which the servants are in need of in their lives and their hereafter has been explained to us by Allâh with the utmost clarity, and the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ has clarified that for us and explained it to the point that Muṣṭafâ ﷺ has left us upon a clear and evident path; its night is similar to its day. He did not depart from this dunyâ until he had completed the religion and perfected it. Therefore, it is not in need of addition. So he who adds anything to Allâh’s religion has innovated, and he is astray, leading others astray. His innovation and addition will be rejected and returned back to him.

It is reported from Muṣṭafâ ﷺ that he said:

من أحدث في أمرنا هذا ما ليس منه فهو رد.

He who invents into this affair of ours that which is not from it shall have it rejected.⁴

The Sunnah and innovation do not combine in the believer’s heart. In his book Al-Madkhal, al-Ḥâkim mentioned: “There is not an

⁴ Reported by al-Bukhârî (#2697) from the hadîth of ‘A’îshah (Functional Name).
innovator in the *dunya* except that he hates the People of *Hadith* (Ahlus-Sunnah), and when a man innovates, the sweetness of the *hadith* and the Sunnah is extracted from his heart.”
And abandoning argumentation and sitting with the people of desires. And abandoning disputation, argumentation, and controversy in the religion.

EXPLANATION

The word al-khusūmāt (الخصومة) is the plural of al-khusūmāh (الخصومة). Al-khusūmāh is derived from al-khasm (الخصم). This is to have schism, argue, and seek to overcome (someone). This is because each of the two disputants wants to overcome the other, and he will argue with him whether it be in truth or falsehood. Al-khusūmāh and al-mukhāsāmāh are between two or more individuals. Meaning, each one wants to debate with the other and overcome him. The origin is that the religion is one, as it is said: “True tawḥīd is unified.”

The religion has no differences within it, and the origin regarding the religion is that the Muslims should all be one ummah.5

Translator’s Note: Shaykh ‘Ubayd al-Jābiri said:

“Disputing, controversy, and argumentation bear the same meaning. This argumentation is of two categories:

1) “Clarification of the truth with the evidence, (saying, for example): This is a sunnah, and the proof is such and such; or this is bid‘ah, and the proof is such and such. This is praiseworthy, and this is what the Salaf would do when disputing with the Mu‘tazilah, the Asha‘irah, or the Jahmiyyah before them, or the Khawārij and other them.

2) “The conversations in which each disputant desires to persuade his opponent to his point of view; and this is the one that Ahlus-Sunnah censures—the Salaf censured it, detested it, and were stern in repudiation against its people. It was not from the habits of the Salaf to sit with the people of desires for discussion, (saying), ‘You listen to me and I will listen to you.’ Rather, when one they knew to be a person of desires would come to
Allāh the Exalted has said:

« إن هذِه أمتكم أُمّة واحِدة وآنآ ركِمكم فآعمدُون »

Truly this, your ummah, is one religion, and I am your Lord, therefore worship Me (alone).

[Sūrah al-Anbiyā’ 21:92]

And likewise Allāh has said:

« وَإِن هذِه أمتكم أُمّة واحِدة وآنآ ركِمكم فآتِقنون »

And verily this, your religion, is one religion, and I am your Lord, so keep your duty to Me.

[Sūrah al-Mu‘minūn 23:52]

Allāh has also stated:

« وَلَا تَنّارِعُوا فَفَنَّشُوا وَتَذَهَّبَ رِيحُكم »

And do not dispute (with one another) lest you lose courage and your strength depart.

[Sūrah al-Anfāl 8:46]

And He has also said:

« وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِحَرْبِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرُّقوا »

And hold fast, all of you together, to the Rope of Allāh, and be not divided among yourselves.

[Sūrah Áli ‘Imrān 3:103]

Therefore, the true religion is unified, and unity is mercy, whereas separation is punishment.

them, they would leave him and get up from the gathering until he departed."
(At-Taqrir al-Ahmad bi-Sharh Usul as-Sunnah lil-Imām Ahmad p. 19)
Disputation in the religion, which is argumentation, schism, and seeking to overcome one another, is only due to desires. The origin in that [i.e., disputation in the religion] is the statement of Allah the Exalted:

\[
\text{وَقَدْ قَالُواَ جَئِنَّكُمْ أَهْلُ الذِّكْرِ إِن كُنتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ}
\]

Over all those endowed with knowledge is the All-Knowing (Allah).

[Sūrah Yusuf 12:76]

And likewise, Allah has stated:

\[
\text{فَإِن تَنارَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَوَدّوْهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ إِن كُنتُمْ}
\]

\[
\text{تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الأَخِرِ ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلاً}
\]

(And) if you differ in anything among yourselves, refer it to Allah and His Messenger ﷺ, if you believe in Allah and in the Last Day. That is better and more suitable for final determination.

[Sūrah an-Nisā’ 4:59]

“Refer it to Allah” in this verse means refer it to His Book, and “refer it to the Messenger ﷺ” means refer it to his Sunnah. In these two lie happiness for the servants, unification of their hearts, and strength for them.

However, to debate and discuss affairs in an excellent manner in order to arrive at the truth and clarify that which is ambiguous to the people, is from the affairs of the religion, and perhaps it is obligatory in certain cases.

Allah the Exalted has said:

\[
\text{فَاسْأَلُوا أُهْلَ الذِّكْرِ إِن كُنتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ}
\]

So ask the people of knowledge if you know not.

[Sūrah an-Nahl 16:43]
However, argumentation and falsehood in order to overcome one another, seeking superiority over each other, and for the sake of disputing, is an affair that is heinous, and it is a rejected matter. This does not emanate except from desires and seeking to overcome Allah’s servants.

I ask Allah to protect us from deviant desires and to unite us upon the Sunnah, guidance, and light, and to unite the hearts of the Muslims.
And the Sunnah according to us is the narrations of the Messenger of Allah⁶ 使者, and the Sunnah explains the Qur'an.

**EXPLANATION**

I say: The Sunnah is the statements of Muṣṭafā 使者 as well as his actions and his legislative approvals. The Qur'an is the speech of Allāh, the Majestic and High, revealed to His Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. He sent it down upon His Prophet so he may clarify it to the people, explain it, and make it clear to them.

Allāh the Exalted has said:

\[
\text{وَأَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الْذِّكْرَ لِتَذْكِّرَ الْبَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ مَا نَزَّلَ إِلَيْهِمْ وَلَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ}
\]

And We have also sent down unto you (O Muhammad ﷺ) the reminder and the advice (the Qur'an), that you may explain clearly to men what is sent down to them, and that they may give thought.

[Surah an-Nahl 16:44]

This is so they may delight with it. The Messenger ﷺ has clarified this with the utmost clarity and with the clearest evidences. Therefore, he who makes the speech of Allāh and the Sunnah of His Prophet ﷺ his

⁶ Shaykh ‘Ubayd al-Jābiri said, “I think he intended by that to block the path for the one who wants to enter things into the Sunnah that are not from it, whether from a good intention or evil intention. So he explained the Sunnah.” (Ar-Taqrir al-Ahmad bi-Sharḥ Usul as-Sunnah lil-Imām Ahmad p. 22)
primary concern while being sincere to Allâh, the path will be made clear for him, and the way will be evident for him and he will be upon complete guidance, whereas he who pursues the obstructions in the path and disputation in the religion, his feet will slip from the path and he will go astray.
And it (the Sunnah) is a guideline for the Qur'an.

**EXPLANATION**

Meaning, the Sunnah proves the Qur'an, and the term *ad-dalā'il* (الدلائل) is the plural of *ad-dalālah* (الدلالة) and the term *ad-dalālah*, as well as *ad-dalil*, means guidance and correctness. Therefore, the Sunnah acts as a director and a guide to the Qur'an. So he who clings to it clings to guidance and clear direction, whereas he who turns away from it goes astray, is misguided, and destroyed.

All praise is due to Allāh, there is no contradiction between the Qur'an and the Sunnah. It is nothing but guidance, clarity, and a clear and evident way.

Allāh the Exalted has said:

> (وَانْتَهِي إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ)

And verily, you (O Muḥammad ﷺ) are indeed guiding (mankind) to the Straight Path.

[Sūrah ash-Shūrā 42:52]

And likewise, the Prophet ﷺ said:

> إِنِّي قُدْ تَرَكْتُ فِي كُلِّمَا مَا إِنَّ اعْتَصَمْتُمْ بِهِ فَلَنْ تَضَلُّوا أَبَداً كَتَابَ اللَّهِ وَسَنَةَ نِبِيِّهِ

I have left among you that which, if you cling to it, you will never go astray thereafter; it is the Book of Allāh and the Sunnah of His
Prophet.\(^7\)

The Prophet ﷺ also mentioned, as is reported in the well-known hadith of Irbâd bin Sâriyah:

\[
\text{فَعَلِيكُمْ بِسَنَتِي، وَسَنَةَ الخَلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ، عَضِواً عَلَيْهَا لِلنَّواَجِذْ،}
\]

\[
\text{وَأَيَّاَكُمْ وَمَهْدَنَاتِ الأَمْوَرِ.}
\]

\textbf{Cling to my Sunnah and the Sunnah of the rightly-guided khulafa' after me. Bite on to it with your molar teeth, and beware of newly-invented matters.}\(^8\)

---

\(^7\) Reported in \textit{At-Targhib wat-Tarhib} (1/61) by al-Mundhiri from the hadith of Abdullâh bin 'Abbâs. Graded \textit{sahih} by al-Albâni in \textit{Sahih at-Targhib wat-Tarhib} (#40).

\(^8\) Reported by Abû Dâwûd (#4607), at-Tirmidhi (#2676), Ibn Mâjah (#42, 43, 44), Ahmâd (1/176), ad-Dârîmi (#95), at-Tabârâni in \textit{Al-Kabir} (#623), Ibn Hibbân (1/178), al-Hâkîm in \textit{Al-Mustadrak} (1/176), and al-Bayhaqi in \textit{Al-Kubra} (10/114). Graded \textit{sahih} by al-Albâni in \textit{As-Sahihah} (#2735).
There is no *qiyaṣ* in the Sunnah.

**EXPLANATION**

This is because the Sunnah is revelation from Allāh to His Prophet. Allāh the Exalted has said:

Nor does he speak of (his own) desire. It is only an inspiration that is inspired.

*[Surah an-Najāt 53:3-4]*

I say: The Sunnah is the counterpart of the Qurʿān and, in regard to legislation, it is similar to the Qurʿān. It is obligatory to accept it and not (permissible) to reject it. He who rejects it has rejected the Qurʿān, since it is revelation that explains the Qurʿān and clarifies it. Due to this, nothing is like it in legislation and explanation, since there is nothing like it from rulings and statements of the people.

Every ruling and statement of the people is subsidiary to the Sunnah. That which corresponds with it is accepted, and that which opposes it is rejected, no matter who said it. In this regard, the great Imām said, out of veneration for the Sunnah, *"There is no qiyaṣ in the Sunnah."* Meaning, there is nothing comparable with it. Nor should anything be compared to it from all the statements of the people of the earth, their rulings, and their legislations, whether they be kings, leaders, or other than them from the great people of the earth; no matter who they may be. In this regard, the Imām also said, out of veneration for the Messenger of Allāh, quoting the statement of the Prophet:**

31
Indeed I have been given the Qur'ān and along with it that which is similar to it.⁹

Therefore, the Sunnah is a foundation just as the Qur'ān is.

⁹ Reported by Ahmad in Al-Musnad (28/410) and graded sahih by al-Albānī in Manzilah as-Sunnah (p. 10).
And examples are not to be struck for it.

EXPLANATION

This is similar to what has preceded in veneration of the Sunnah and its distinction in legislation and rulings along with the Qur'an, as well as acceptance of it. No one should say that the Messenger ﷺ is a human being and perhaps he makes mistakes sometimes, therefore the Sunnah contains mistakes. This is falsehood, because Allah the Exalted has said:

[Surah al-Haqqah 69:44-47]

And if he (Muhammad ﷺ) had forged a false saying concerning Us (Allah), We surely should have seized him by his right hand, and then certainly should have cut off his life artery (aorta), and none of you could withhold Us from (punishing) him.

[Surah al-Haqqah 69:44-47]

And likewise Allah has said:

[Nor does he speak of (his own) desire. It is only an inspiration that is inspired.

[Surah an-Najm 53:3-4]
Hence, for us to say that the Messenger ﷺ is a human being is the truth — there occurs to him that which occurs to every human being, from sicknesses and calamities, and he is exposed to what human beings are exposed to from illness, hunger, fatigue, fear, and forgetfulness, as well as other than this from that which occurs to human beings. However, he is infallible as it relates to his conveyance of the revelation and his position in legislation, guidance, and clarification of what Allâh has sent to him. In relation to these things, he is infallible and not subject to error.

Allâh the Exalted has said:

{وَاللَّهُ يَعْصِمْكُمْ مِنَ النَّاسِ}

Allâh will protect you from mankind.

[Sûrah al-Ma'idah 5:67]

Meaning, Allâh will safeguard you from them. Likewise, He will protect you from them intellectually, for if the greatest minds in the world were to gather together, they would not be able to find anything in the Sunnah that is in contradiction with itself, nor will they find any contradiction between the Sunnah and the Qur'ân—in all of its statements and rulings—even if they made great efforts and strove hard to do so, and attempted with their greatest attempts in this, whether they be from the philosophers, Orientalists, or Western thinkers. If they came together seeking to find what corresponds with their desires and made efforts to do so, the knowledge of the Qur'ân and the Sunnah would overtake them and they would be in a state of destruction and loss.

Allâh the Exalted has said:

{وَهُوَ خَيْبَرٌ
ثُمَّ أَرْجَعُ الْبَصَرُ كَرَّتًينَ يَتَقَلِبُ إِلَّاَّ الْبَصَرُ حَامِيًّا}

Then look again and yet again, your sight will return
to you in a state of humiliation and worn out.

[Surah al-Mulk 67:4]

Along with this, the pure revelation has remained preserved and safeguarded, and it shall remain like this until the end of time. This does not prove anything except that the Qur'ān and the Sunnah are both a decisive ruling from Allāh, the Most High, the Most Wise.

Allāh said:

(This is) a Book, the verses whereof are perfected and then explained in detail from one Who is All-Wise and Well-Acquainted (with all things).

[Surah Ḥūd 11:1]

Therefore, wisdom is with the Qur'ān and the Sunnah, whereas destruction and misguidance are with other than them. The Sunnah is wisdom (ḥikmah), as is in the statement of Allāh the Exalted:

Instructing them in the Book (this Qur'ān) and al-ḥikmah and purifying them.

[Surah al-Baqarah 2:129]

Likewise, Allāh has said:

And purifying you, and teaching you the Book (the Qur'ān) and the hikmah.

[Surah al-Baqarah 2:151]

Hence, striking examples for the Sunnah is falsehood, legislatively and intellectually. This is because it is revelation from Allāh and it is the counterpart of the Qur'ān.
Imâm Aḥmad has mentioned this because he encountered harm from the enemies of the Sunnah in his time and suffered tremendous trials from them. They would say, “The Sunnah was transmitted by narrators and they make mistakes. Therefore, it is a must that we subject the Sunnah to intellect. That which corresponds with the intellect is accepted, and that which opposes it is rejected.” They deviated greatly by way of this.

Due to this, we say to them: Which intellect can be a judge over the Sunnah, while the intellects vary just as human beings vary?! How idiotic are their intellects! Then it is said to them: The Qur'ān has also been transmitted and reported to us by way of narrators. Is this to be said concerning the Qur'ān also?! (Are we to say) that it should be subject to the intellects, and that which corresponds with the intellect is accepted and that which opposes it is rejected?!

May Allāh fight them. This is indeed clear deviation.
It is not grasped by way of intellects or desires.

EXPLANATION

Al-‘uqul (العقل) is the plural of al-‘aql (العقل). It is that which makes one responsible, and it safeguards the human being from falling into destruction. The meaning of ‘aql in the language is restraint and prevention. This is because the Sunnah is revelation from Allâh and it is a presiding ruler over the intellects. Rather, it is that which directs the intellects and guides them. We have not seen an intellect that has diverged and departed from the Sunnah except that it has gone astray and fallen into blunders.

Likewise, we have not seen an intellect that is guided by the Sunnah and follows it except that it is in the best of the people—the most virtuous of them in mind, the purest of them in disposition, and the best of them in understanding. They have been given wisdom in their statements and actions.

The Salaf used to say, “He who makes the Sunnah the commander of his heart and tongue will speak with wisdom. And he who makes desires the commander of his heart and tongue shall speak with innovation.” This is because the intellects, like human beings, vary in proportion to their strength and weakness. Therefore, they are not able to be independent in understanding their life and their place of return, or understanding what will benefit them in that, as long as they do not have the pure revelation to guide them. This is from Allâh’s mercy to His servants, for He has sent messengers to them and He has revealed books.

Allâh the Exalted has said:
And We never punish until We have sent a messenger (to give warning).

[Sūrah al-İsra' 17:15]

So here, Imām Ahmad said, “It is not grasped by way of intellect.” Meaning: Firstly, the intellects are weak. Secondly, they vary in understanding and comprehension; therefore, they are not able to encompass the Sunnah, for it is revelation from Allāh. Thirdly, intellects are deficient. They die and they come to an end. Therefore, so-and-so from among the people who has the firmest mind of all the slaves of Allāh will get weak and pass away, and his mind will go.

Allāh the Exalted has said:

Whatsoever is on it (the earth) will perish.

[Sūrah ar-Rahmān 55:26]

Allāh has also said:

And he to whom We grant long life, We reverse him in creation.

[Sūrah Yā-Sīn 36:68]

Therefore, the guideline for the life of the servants in order to have a good life—and they have no other guideline except this—is the infallible revelation; i.e., the Book and the Sunnah. Rather, the Sunnah must be a presiding ruler over the intellects in order to guide them. Due to this, the author followed this by saying: “There is only to be following and the abandonment of desires.”

He who makes the Sunnah a presiding ruler over his intellect and his primary concern, and who clings to it and has this as his primary
focus, will be guided and directed to the Straight Path.

Allāh the Exalted has said:

Verily, this Qur'ān guides to that which is most just and right and gives glad tidings to the believers who work deeds of righteousness, that they shall have a great reward (Paradise).

[Sūrah al-Isrā' 17:9]

Due to this, there has come in the narrated supplication:

O Allāh, make us from those who follow the Qur'ān such that it guides to your good pleasure and Paradise. And do not make us from those whom the Qur'ān follows and thus it drives one by his neck to the Fire.

Likewise, Muṣṭafā ﷺ would say:

The Qur'ān is an evidence for you or against you.¹⁰

¹⁰ Reported by Muslim (#223) from the hadīth of Abū Mālik al-Ḥārith bin Āsim al-Ash'ārī رضي الله عنه.
There is only to be following and the abandonment of desires.

EXPLANATION

Meaning, one should submit to Allâh, the Majestic and High, outwardly and inwardly, and follow the noble Qur'ân and the pure Sunnah outwardly and inwardly. And he should abandon following desires, in general and in detail.

Allâh the Exalted has said:

\[ فَلاَ وَرَّبِّي لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ حَتَّى يَحْكُمُوكَ فِي مَا سَحَرَ بَيْنَهُمْ ثُمَّ لَا يَجِدُوا فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ حَرَجًا مَّا قَضَيْتُ وَيُسَلَّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا \]

But no, by your Lord, they can have no faith, until they make you (O Muhammad ﷺ) judge in all disputes between them, and find in themselves no resistance against your decisions, and accept (them) with full submission.

[Sûrah an-Nisâ' 4:65]

Likewise, Allâh has said:

\[ وَمَا كَانَ لِلَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ أَمْرًا إِنْ كَانُ لَهُمْ جَهَرًا مَّنْ أَمْرُهُمْ وَمَنْ يُصَدِّقُ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ ﻓَقَدْ ضَلَّ ضَلًَّا مُّسْتَمِيًا \]
It is not for a believer, man or woman, when Allāh and His Messenger have decreed a matter that they should have any option in their decision. And whoever disobeys Allāh and His Messenger, he has indeed strayed in plain error.

[Sūrah al-Ahzāb 33:36]

Allāh has also said:

Verily! We have placed you as a successor on earth, so judge you between men in truth (and justice) and follow not your desire, for it will mislead you from the path of Allāh. Verily! Those who wander astray from the path of Allāh (shall) have a severe torment, because they forgot the Day of Reckoning.

[Sūrah Śād 38:26]

Al-hawā (الهوى, desires) is the inclination of the heart towards that which the heart desires and the soul loves. Opposing desires and the soul is a magnificent matter in subjugating one's soul, taming it, and cultivating it upon the obedience of Allāh. It is (a means to) happiness for the person in the dunyā as well as the hereafter.

Allāh the Exalted said:

But as for him who feared standing before his Lord, and restrained himself from impure evil desires and
lusts. Verily, Paradise will be his abode.

[Surah an-Nazi'at 79:40-41]

Due to this, Mustafa ﷺ said:

حَفْتُ الْجَنَّةِ بِالَّذِيْنَ یَکْرِهُمْ وَحَفْتُ الْجَنَّةِ بِالَّذِيْنَ یَکْرِهُمْ

Paradise is surrounded by difficult things and the Hellfire is surrounded by desirable things.°

Therefore, following the Sunnah outwardly and inwardly, loving it, and acting upon it brings about Paradise in the hereafter, as well as happiness in the dunyā.

How can this not be the case when the servant is walking upon the path of Muṣṭafā ﷺ? Allah the Exalted has said:

وَإِنْ تَحْذَرْ عِنْدَنَا أَنْ تَعْلَمُوا مَا يُقَدِّمُونَ فَلَا تَذَلِّلُوا

Then if there comes to you guidance from Me, then whoever follows My guidance shall neither go astray, nor fall into distress and misery.

[Surah Tā-Ḥā 20:123]

Ibn ‘Abbās ﷺ said, “Meaning, one will not go astray in the dunyā nor will he be in a state of misery in the hereafter.”

He who traverses upon the path of Muṣṭafā ﷺ will be with him, by Allah’s bounty and mercy, in the gardens of delight. And how great is this as a means of happiness! This also brings about safety from deviation in the dunyā, as well as safety from misery in the hereafter. And this is complete guidance, complete happiness, and everlasting joy. O Allah, make us from among its people.

That happiness is that you bask in its atmosphere,

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° Reported by Muslim (#2822) from the hadith of Anas bin Mālik ﷺ.
So stop your mount, for you have been saved from despair;

Knowledge is not except the Book of Allāh or a narration,

Illuminating with the light of His guidance for all who seek it;

A light for the seasoned one, goodness for the seeker,

A protection for the fearful and a blessing for the destitute;

Cling to their (the Qur'ān and Sunnah) door for those who seek it,

Remove blindness by way of them from every seeker;

Sweet water flows to your heart from their pools,

You can wash what is in it from filth with the water of their guidance;

One who stands with the Prophet, and the followers of the Prophet you will be,

By their guidance, constantly drawing nearer to the light;

Cling to their gatherings and preserve their company.

And be saddened if you miss a portion of a lesson;

Traverse upon their path and cling to their group.

You will be their companion in the Blessed Company.
And it is from the required Sunnah, [the Sunnah] which whoever abandons a single characteristic from it has not accepted it, has not believed in it, and he is not from its people:

EXPLANATION

The author now mentions some of the details of the foundations of the sound and correct belief system, which is obligatory upon the believer to have iman in and submit to in the most complete manner. He said: "From the required Sunnah,” meaning, that which is binding upon the Muslim and obligatory for him to cling to and not abandon, such that he said: “…whoever abandons a single characteristic from it.” The word al-khaslah (الخصالة) means a quality within the individual. Here it means a part of a thing. And these khisal (خصال, characteristics) will be mentioned by the author as the foundations of al-iman. He who abandons anything from them, then it is as if he has abandoned all of them. They are the pillars of iman and its obligatory elements.

They have come in the authentic narration in which the Prophet ﷺ said:

"An Iman is that you believe in Allâh, His angels, His Books, His messengers, the Last Day, and the qadar, its good and its evil."\(^\text{12}\)

\(^{12}\) Reported by Muslim (#8).
Likewise, he said, "(he) has not accepted it, has not believed in it, and he is not from its people."

This is the clear truth that contains no ambiguity. Indeed, everyone who rejects something and does not accept it, then he is not from the people of that which he has rejected. And the people of imān are those who accept all of it—its pillars and its obligatory elements—and they act upon it outwardly and inwardly.

Allāh has said:

َيَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَدْخِلُوا فِي السَّلَّمِ كَأَفَّهَ»

O you who believe, enter Islām completely.

[Sūrah al-Baqarah 2:208]

Meaning, accept the entirety of Islām.
**EXPLANATION**

I say: *Al-qadar* is Allah’s secret within His creation. It is that which Allah, the All-Knowing, the All-Capable, has decreed within everything as it relates to this universe. Nothing departs from His decree, His knowledge, and His divine will. His knowledge, ability, and divine will encompass all things, and His decree of them takes place in a manner that He wills and wants. This was decreed before they were brought into existence, and occurs as He wants. That which does not exist, Allah knows how it would have been had it existed.

All of this is in a divine book which none knows except Him alone. Allah has said:

> (He alone) is the All-Knower of the ghayb (unseen), and He reveals to none His ghayb (unseen).

*[Surah al-Jinn 72:26]*

Therefore, our Lord, the Magnificent King, the All-Wise, the All-Knowing, the Ever-Powerful, is not such that there will be in His creation except what He wants and has decreed, and there is nothing in His creation created in vain; exalted be Allah above that. Allah has said:

> أَفَحَسِبُونَ أَنَّا خَلَقْنَاهُمْ غَيْبًا وَأَنَّكُمْ إِلَيْنا لاَ تُرْجِعُونَ

*[Surah al-Asr 19:73]*
“Did you think that We had created you in play (without any purpose), and that you would not be brought back to Us?”

[Sūrah al-Mu'mīnūn 23:115]

Therefore, His divine decree for affairs and His knowledge of them before they come into existence—whether they be good or evil—as well as their existence in proportion to His knowledge, decree, and divine will, all make up al-qadar.

Therefore, īmān in al-qadar, its good and its evil, is a pillar of the servant’s īmān. This is that the servant believes that Allāh has decreed everything in this life, and He knows it and has willed it. (The servant knows that) he exists by way of Allāh’s knowledge and will. Therefore, nothing departs from Allāh’s decree, knowledge, and will. As it is said, “From a grain of corn to the celestial bodies.”

Everything in creation and existence is by Allāh’s decree, knowledge, and divine will. The human being is part of that creation.
And to affirm the narrations regarding it and to have imān in them.

EXPLANATION

Many narrations have come affirming the fact that Allah has decreed and preordained all things, in general and in detail, before creating them and bringing them into existence. He has decreed those who are miserable and those who will be blessed. He has decreed their provisions and their lifespans. All things have been created by Him. Therefore, before He created them and brought them into existence, they were within His knowledge and He decreed them, willed them, and wanted them to be. Then He put them into existence just as He knew them, decreed them, willed them, and wanted them to be.

The best example for this is what was mentioned by Ibn Mas'ūd when he said, “The truthful and trustworthy said to me:

"Indeed, the creation of one of you is brought together in the womb of his mother for a period of 40 days as a nutfah (mixed drops of male and female semen), then as a clot for a similar period, then as a lump of flesh for a similar period. Then the angel is sent to him and commanded to write four things regarding him. He writes: (1) his provisions, (2) his life span, (3) his actions, and (4) whether he will
be wretched or blessed.’”13

Likewise, there is that which he said in the hadith of Ibn ‘Abbās:

رفعت الألباب وجعلت الصحف.

The pens have been lifted and the pages have dried.14

And [there is] other than this from the narrations similar to when he was asked, in the hadith of Surāqah, “What is the use of doing actions?” He said:

اعملوا فكل ميسر لما خلق له.

Do actions, for everyone shall have facilitated for him the action for which he has been created.15

So in this universe, which is created both high and low, that which is general and that which is detailed, there is nothing except that it exists by Allāh’s decree, knowledge, and divine will. Even the leaf that falls from the tree and the raindrop that falls from the sky.

Then the author said, “And to have imān in them.” Meaning, imān in the narrations that clarify this and explain it. It is obligatory to have imān in them and to submit to them totally in one’s heart and mind, outwardly and inwardly, and to understand them as the Companions understood them from Muṣṭafā (and to submit to them) as they submitted to them and acted upon them. It is likewise obligatory upon us to submit to them and act upon them without dispute, argumentation, or debate. Rather, we must submit to them, be pleased with them, and accept them.

This was the action of the Companions, and this was due to their clarity and their completion in explaining the Lord’s actions, Exalted and High be He. This is due to the truthfulness of their imān and the

13 Reported by al-Bukhāri (#3208, 3332, 6594, and 7454) and Muslim (#2643).
14 Reported by at-Tirmidhi (#2516), graded sahih by al-Albānī in Sahih al-Jāmi’ (#2514).
15 Reported by al-Bukhāri (#4949) from the hadith of ‘Alī bin Abī Ṭālib.
excellence of their certainty, the purity of their hearts, and the fact that they knew that the Lord does what He wills and is incapable of nothing. Therefore, that which He decrees is, and there is no way to hinder it from being. That which He wants is, and that which He does not want is not.
And one is not to say “Why?” or “How?”

**EXPLANATION**

This is because Allah the Exalted has said:

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لا يُقَالُ لِمْ وَلَا كَيْفَ
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He cannot be questioned as to what He does, while they will be questioned.

[Sūrah al-Anbiyā‘ 21:23]

This speech from the Imam blocks the response of the obstinate rejecters and the people of desires and innovation, from the proponents of theological rhetoric and other than them, because the servants have nothing to do with the affair and the affair is entirely in Allah’s Hands, as Allah has said:

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اللَّهُ الْخَلْقُ وَالأَمْرُ بِهِ رَبُّ الْعَالَمِينَ
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Surely, His is the creation and commandment. Blessed be Allah, the Lord of all that exists!

[Sūrah al-A‘rāf 7:54]

Hence, the entirety of the creation is His and (they are all) His servants, and He is their Master and King. It is obligatory for them to understand that their affair belongs to Him. He has created them as He has willed and not as they will. His creation and His divine will is the best creation and the best will.
Alläh has said:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{فَتَبَارَكَ الَّلَّهُ أَحْسنَ الْخَالِقِينَ} \\
\text{So blessed be Alläh, the best of creators.}
\end{align*}
\]

[Sûrah al-Mu’mînûn 23:14]

Therefore, the Majestic Creator is such that, since He is singled out with the creation, He is likewise singled out with the command. Therefore, the command is His command, and His command within His creation is authoritative. He does not command except with what is good. Hence, all good is in His Hand, and evil is not attributed to Him. Therefore, the one whom He has ennobled with ʿîmân and success, then this is by way of His bounty and His favor. The one whom He has humiliated with disbelief and wickedness, then this is by way of His justice, and He is not an oppressor to them.

Alläh has said:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{لَا يُسَاءَ عَمَّا يَفْعَلُ وَهُمْ يُسَاءُونَ} \\
\text{He cannot be questioned as to what He does, while they will be questioned.}
\end{align*}
\]

[Sûrah al-Anbiyâ’ 21:23]

And Alläh has also said:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{هُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ فِي نَارٍ كَافِرٍ وَمُنْتَكَمْ مُؤْمِنٌ وَاللَّهُ}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\text{بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بِصِبَارٍ} \\
\text{He it is Who created you, then some of you are disbelievers and some of you are believers. And Alläh is All-Seer of what you do.}
\]

[Sûrah at-Taghâbun 64:2]

And Alläh has also said:
Not for you (O Muhammad ﷺ, but for Allāh) is the decision.

[Sūrah Āl ʾImrān 3:128]

Therefore, he who asks why or how is guilty of heresy and disbelief, and he has entered himself into that which does not concern him. He is a weak slave who has been created, and thus he is destroyed, he is sick, and he is dead. He has entered himself into the affairs of the Owner, the King, and the Ever-Powerful; the One who manages the affairs, the Truth, the Creator, the All-Wise, the All-Knowing, the One who gives life and causes death, the Ever-Living, the One who sustains and protects all that exists, the One who does not die. The jinn and mankind will pass away. They are those whom He causes to die and then He will bring them to life.

Allāh the Exalted says:

وَمَا أُوتِيتُم مِّن الْعِلْمِ إِلَّا قَلِيلًا

And of knowledge, you (mankind) have been given only a little.

[Sūrah al-ʾIsrāʾ 17:85]

The entirety of the creation, both mankind and the jinn, the first of them and the last of them, do not know anything within the knowledge of Allāh except what is similar to a drop of water in the magnificent ocean. That which they do know, Allāh has favored them with.

Allāh the Exalted has said:

وَلَا يَحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عَلَمِهِ إِلَّا يَتَّقونَ

And they will never compass anything of His knowl-
edge except what He wills.

[Surah al-Baqarah 2:255]

The author said, "One is not to say 'Why?' or 'How?'" This is due to the completeness of Allâh's knowledge and wisdom, and the completeness of Allâh's ability and divine will, as well as the weakness and inability of the deficient creation.
There is only to be at-taṣdīq (affirmation) and īmān in them.

**EXPLANATION**

I say: *At-taṣdīq al-jāzīm* (firm affirmation) and true īmān is that which contains no doubt in what is authentically narrated and affirmed from the Prophet ﷺ, who does not speak from his own desire. One is to have īmān in the narrations regarding *al-qadar*, some of which have preceded, such as the statement of the Prophet ﷺ:

١٦ رفعت الأُفلام وِجَفَت السَّحْفَ.

The pens have been lifted and the pages have dried.\(^{16}\)

And his statement:

١٧ فِي كِتَابِ رَزْقِهِ وَعَمَلِهِ وَاِجْلِهِ وَشَقِيِّ أو سَعِيدِ.

The angel writes his provisions, his lifespan, his actions, and whether he will be wretched or blessed.\(^{17}\)

Meaning, this takes place before his creation and his existence in this life; these things are already written and predetermined for him. There is nothing upon the weak slave except to act upon what he has been commanded with and to humble himself and turn to Allāh, seeking refuge with Him such that He will accept him and give him success in what He loves and is pleased with; and He will write him among the people of happiness and nobility, and not place him among the

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\(^{16}\) Reported by at-Tirmidhi (#2516). Graded *sahīh* by al-Albānī in *Sāhīh al-Jāmi‘* (#2514).

\(^{17}\) The reference for this hadith has preceded.
people of misery and the Fire. If he says why or how, then he is guilty of heresy and disbelief.

So he is not to say, “Why did Allāh make so-and-so a believer?” Nor is he to say, “Why did Allāh make so-and-so a disbeliever?” Or, “Why does so-and-so believe and why has so-and-so disbelieved?” Or, “Why has Allāh made so-and-so rich and why has Allāh made so-and-so poor?” He is only to affirm and act upon what Allāh has commanded; and Allāh is a guardian of the pious and the guardian of those who turn to Him in repentance. (He is also) the guardian of the patient, those who humble themselves before Him, and those who are obedient to him and truthful.
He who does not know the explanation of the narration and whose intellect cannot grasp it, then that is sufficient and the affair has been decided for him. Therefore, it is upon him to have *imān* in it and to submit to it.

**EXPLANATION**

This is because it is the truth which contains no falsehood. It is the speech of Allāh and the speech of His Messenger ﷺ. The principle regarding the intelligent human being is that he follows the meanings of the Qur'ān and the Sunnah, and he ponders and tries to comprehend their meanings so he may act upon that in accordance with what the Messenger ﷺ and his noble and eminent Companions understood. He traverses upon their guidance and their path with excellence; thus, he is from the most intelligent of the slaves, the soundest of them in understanding, and the most guided of them.

Perhaps one will come whose intellect and understanding are weak, so he does not know the explanation of the narration, or perhaps it is ambiguous to him and his intellect cannot grasp it. He should not reject it. Rather, it is upon him to submit to it, for there exists one who is more intelligent than him and has more understanding and knowledge than him.

Allāh the Exalted has said:

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بِفِي كُلِّ ذِي عَلَمٍ عَلِيمٍ
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But over all those endowed with knowledge is the
All-Knowing (Allāh).

[Sūrah Yūsuf 12:76]

This is balance and justice, for indeed the speech of Allāh and His Messenger ﷺ is of the utmost authority and it contains no schism, nor does it contain contradiction and opposition. They affirm one another, they (the Book and the Sunnah) explain one another, and they guide to that which is firmer.

The Imam encountered those whose desires had overcome them. They were overcome by philosophy, doubt, argumentation, and disputation, and they had little taqwa. They were those who sought ascendancy and were arrogant and deluded by what they had from knowledge, to the point that Shaykh-ul-Islām Ibn Taymiyyah said the well-known statement concerning them: “They were given intelligence but not purity of heart.” Due to this, when Imām Aḥmad encountered these people and their disputation in the religion and regarding the narrations of the Messenger ﷺ, he said this. He was addressing the general people and informing them that it is upon the believer to have imān and to submit to what his intellect cannot grasp, and to not contradict it. This is because what has come from Allāh and His Messenger ﷺ in its entirety both emanate from one light.

The eloquent are silenced by it and the intelligent believe in it. This individual whose intellect cannot grasp it and understand it by way of the pure revelation, perhaps his intellect can grasp some of it or most of it and he can understand it, believe in it, and submit to it. That one is such that he cannot grasp it, while someone else’s intellect can grasp it. All of it emanates from one light.

So it is obligatory that one accepts it, because he is not the most intelligent of people. Even though he has intelligence and understanding, there is one who is more intelligent than him and has more understanding and knowledge than him. This is because the people are, as has preceded, variant in their understanding, their intellects, and their levels of knowledge. Rather, the servant himself may encounter a time when his mind is hindered from understanding and
comprehending. So he whose mind is hindered from the Qur'an or the narrations such that he does not understand them, it is obligatory upon him not to reject them. Rather, (he must) submit to the One who has revealed them and ask Allāh to grant him success in understanding and to enlighten his mind and his insight in that, and to make him firm upon the truth.

Allāh has indeed spoken the truth when He said:

\[ \text{وَفَوْقَ كُلِّ ذِي عَلْمٍ عَلَيْمَ} \]

But over all those endowed with knowledge is the All-Knowing (Allāh).

[Sūrah Yūsuf 12:76]
Such as the hadith of the truthful one who is believed, and that which is similar to it regarding al-qadar.

**EXPLANATION**

I say: The hadith of the truthful one who is believed is a reference to the hadith of Ibn Mas'ūd which is in the Sahih [of al-Bukhāri], wherein he said, “The truthful one who is believed narrated to me:

إن أحدكم يجعل خلقه في بطن أمه.

“Indeed, the creation of one of you is brought together in the womb of his mother…”

This hadith proves with a clear indication that no one enters or departs from this dunyā except by way of the decree, knowledge, will, and wanting of Allāh the Exalted. Allāh has preordained His decree and is all-knowing of it. He wrote and He willed it to be and He wanted it to happen. Thus occurs everything that happens in this life. Allāh decrees it with an excellent and complete decree, and He ordains what He wills, Glorified be He. As Allāh has said:

لا يُسْأَلُ عَمَّا يَفْعَلُ وَهُمْ يُسَالُونَ

He cannot be questioned as to what He does, while they will be questioned.

[Sūrah al-Anbiyā' 21:23]

Hence, there is nothing due upon the believing slave except to believe in Allāh's decree for everything in existence, such that nothing departs from His decree, knowledge, and will.
As Allāh, the Majestic and High, has said:

\[
\text{إِنَّا كُلُّ شَيْءٍ خَلَقْنَاهُ بِقَدْرٍ}
\]

*Verily, We have created all things with qadar.*

[Surah al-Qamar 54:49]

Likewise, Allāh said:

\[
\text{وَعِدَّهُ مَفَاتِحَ الْغَيْبِ لَا يَعْلَمُهَا إلَّا هُوَ وَيَعْلَمُ مَا فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحرِ وَمَا تَسْقَطُ مِنْ وَرَقَةٍ إلَّا يَعْلَمُهَا وَلا حَيْثُ فِي طَلَّامِعٍ الْأَرْذِ وَلَا رَطبٍ وَلا يَسِيرٍ إلَّا فِي كِتَابٍ مُّبِينٍ}
\]

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 (or on) the earth 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 it is written in a clear record.

[Surah al-An'am 6:59]

And Allāh has said:

\[
\text{وَخَلَقَ كُلُّ شَيْءٍ فَقَدَرَهُ تَقْدِيرًا}
\]

He has created everything, and has measured it exactly according to its due measurements.

[Surah al-Furqān 25:2]

Allāh has also stated:

\[
\text{وَكُلُّ شَيْءٍ فَعَلَوهُ في النَّزْرِ}
\]

And each and every thing they have done is noted in (their) records (of deeds).

[Surah al-Qamar 54:52]
So all things in this universe are written and decreed by Him and recorded in the Preserved Tablet. Nothing occurs in the universe and in this life except what is written, recorded, and known, and willed by way of Allah's perfect and complete will, His complete and all-encompassing knowledge, and His authoritative will. Allāh knew it before it came into existence. Due to this, Muṣṭafā ﷺ said, in the hadith of Ibn ‘Abbās:

رفعت الأفلاط و جفت الصحف

The pens have been lifted and the pages have dried.

This is in opposition to the despicable and filthy Qadariyyah, for they have denied this. May Allāh the Exalted fight them for their slander.

Imām Aḥmad ﷺ said, “…and that which is similar to it regarding al-qadar.” Meaning, similar to the hadith of Ibn Mas’ūd in affirmation of the qadar and the fact that Allāh decrees all things. Therefore, it is upon the Muslim slave to have īmān in that and to affirm it, and he must not reject it. Meaning, he should not reject the likes of these affirmed narrations that come in affirmation of al-qadar. And he must believe that all of these things are created by way of the decree, will, and knowledge of Allāh.

As Allāh the Exalted has said:

إِنَّا كَلَّا شَيْئًا خَلَقْنَاهُ بِقَدَّارٍ

Verily, We have created all things with qadar.

[Sūrah al-Qamar 54:49]

Īmān in al-qadar is one of the six articles of faith concerning which he who disbelieves in a single one of them has lost his īmān.

We ask Allāh to make īmān firm in our hearts and to not allow our hearts to deviate after He has guided us. O turner of the hearts and sight, make our hearts firm upon Your religion. O controller of the hearts, turn our hearts toward Your obedience.
And also like the narrations that speak regarding the seeing of Allah (in the hereafter); even if the ears are repulsed by them and the one who hears them is confused.

Explanation

Meaning, similar to *īmān* in the narrations regarding *al-qadar*—since the Qadariyyah have gone astray in this regard—are the narrations regarding seeing Allah in the hereafter that are affirmed from the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. The Mu’tazilah have gone astray in this, so it is obligatory upon the believer to have *īmān* in all of the narrations that speak regarding seeing Allah in the hereafter. This is in reference to the believers seeing their Lord on the Day of Judgment in Paradise, wherein they shall dwell for eternity.

Verses and authentic narrations have come regarding this, such as the statement of Allah ﷻ:

\[ \text{Some faces that Day shall be shining and radiant;}
\text{looking at their Lord (Allah)…} \]

[Sūrah al-Qiyāmah 75:22-23]

Likewise, the saying of Allah:

\[ \text{For those who have done good is the best and even} \]
This is since the Prophet ﷺ has explained az-ziyādah ("even more") to mean the believers seeing their Lord on the Day of Judgment. He also said:

إنكم سترون ربك يوم القيامة.

Indeed, you shall see your Lord on the Day of Judgment.\(^{18}\)

And he also said:

ما منكم من أحد إلا وسيكلمه ربه ليس بينه وبينه حاجب ولا ترجمان.

There is none from among you except that his Lord shall speak to him with there being neither veil nor interpreter between them.\(^{19}\)

And other than this from the narrations and verses that have come regarding this. Therefore, it is upon the believing slave to submit, have īmān in, and yield to these narrations. He must not dispute, argue, or contend with them as the people of innovation and misguidance have done, from the Mu’tazilah and other than them from those whose vision has been blinded.

Therefore, Imam Ahmad ﷺ said it is obligatory upon you, O slave of Allāh, to believe in this even if your hearing may be repulsed by these narrations, and your nature and your hearing does not comprehend it. You are not to say, “How?” And your īmān is not correct until your desires, your nature, and that which your soul inclines toward is subservient to what the Messenger ﷺ—who was a sincere and trustworthy advisor—has come with from his Lord ﷺ.

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\(^{18}\) Reported by al-Bukhārī (7436) from the hadith of Jarir bin ‘Abdillah ﷺ.

\(^{19}\) Reported by Ibn Khuzaymah (1/363) from the hadith of Buraydah bin al-Hasib al-Aslami.
Certainly, it is due upon one to have *imān* in them and to not reject a single letter from them, and the same for other *ahādīth* that have been reported on the authority of trustworthy narrators.  

**EXPLANATION**

The speech of the author here is clear, since he repeated the fact that it is obligatory on the Muslim slave to submit and have *imān* in the authentic narrations that have been affirmed, and to not reject them simply because he does not understand and comprehend them. And he is not to reject a single letter from them, for he who rejects a single letter from them, it is as if he has rejected all of them.

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20 **Translator’s Note:** Shaykh ‘Ubayd al-Jabiri said:

“This is a principle that contains a number of affairs: firstly, when do we accept the *hadith*? If the transmission of it is authentic from the Prophet ﷺ, then we accept it. And that has five conditions, which are:

1) Trustworthiness of its narrators.

2) Their precision.

3) Continuity in the chain of narration.

4) Being free of irregularity.

5) Being free from defect.”

(*At-Taqrir al-Ahmad bi-Sharh Usūl as-Sunnah lil-Imām Ahmad* p. 47)
And one is not to argue with anyone or debate with him, nor is he to learn the skills of argumentation.

**EXPLANATION**

This is the path of the Salaf, may Allāh’s pleasure be upon them. It is to abandon differing, disputation, debate, and argumentation in the religion, for indeed, this is the foundation of diversion and misery. One is simply to have certainty and submit to the Lord of all that exists.

Allāh the Exalted has said:

> فلا وَزْوَلجَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ حَتَّى يُحَكَّمُوكَ فِي مَا شَجَرَ بينهمْ ثُمَّ لَا يَجِدُوا فِي أَنفُسِهِمْ حَرَجًا مَّعَهَا قَضِيَتُ وَيُسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيماً

But no, by your Lord, they can have no faith, until they make you (O Muḥammad ﷺ) judge in all disputes between them, and find in themselves no resistance against your decisions, and accept (them) with full submission.

[Sūrah an-Nisā’ 4:65]

One is also to leave off debate and argumentation with others, for indeed it brings about enmity, hatred, and aversion of the hearts. The principle is knowledge, learning, and comprehension of the religion,
calling to Allah upon clear insight and knowledge, and speaking with that which is better.

Allah the Exalted has said:

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أدعُ إلى سبيل ربك بالحكمة
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Invite (mankind, O Muhammad ﷺ) to the way of your Lord (i.e., Islam) with wisdom and fair preaching.

[Sūrah an-Nahl 16:125]

Allah has also said:

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فَعَالَى الله الملك الحق ولا تفعَّل بالفران من قبَل
أَن يُقَضَى إِلَّا إِلَّهَ وَحْيَه وَقُرْآنٌ رَبِّ يُتْقَى عَلَمًا
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Then high above all be Allah, the True King. And be not in haste (O Muhammad ﷺ) with the Qur’an before its revelation is completed to you, and say: “My Lord! Increase me in knowledge.”

[Sūrah Tâ-Hâ 20:114]

A man will always be a scholar as long as he seeks knowledge, for if he thinks that he has already acquired knowledge, then he is ignorant, and it is upon him to have taqwā of Allah.

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Translator’s Note: It is reported from Imām Mālik bin Anas that a man came to him named Abul-Juwayriyyah who was accused of al-irja, and [Abul-Juwayriyyah] said, “O Abū 'Abdillāh, listen to me — I want to speak with you concerning something and debate with you and inform you of my opinion.” [Imām Mālik] said, “And if you should win the debate?” He said, “If I win the debate, then you follow me.” [Imām Mālik] said, “And if there comes another man who speaks with us and overcomes us?” He said, “Then we will follow him.” Mālik said, “O servant of Allah, Allah ﷻ sent Muhammad ﷺ with one religion, and I see you wanting to change to another religion.”

(Reported by al-Ājurri in Ash-Shari'ah [1/437 and 5/2546] and Ibn Baṭṭah reported it by way of him in Al-Ibdnah [2/507])
Allāh the Exalted said:

وَتَرْوَّدُوا فَإِنَّ خَيْرَ الْزَّوْادِ الْتَقْوَىٰ

And take a provision (with you) for the journey, but the best provision is at-taqwā (piety, righteousness, etc.).

[Sūrah al-Baqarah 2:197]

And Allāh has also said:

وَاتَقُوا اللَّهَ وَيَعْلَمُكُمُ اللَّهُ

So be afraid of Allāh; and Allāh teaches you.

[Sūrah al-Baqarah 2:282]
Indeed, theological rhetoric regarding al-qadar, the seeing of Allâh in the hereafter, and the Qur'ân is detestable and prohibited.

EXPLANATION

I say: Theological rhetoric regarding al-qadar has already been defined and understood. However, here the author is warning against disputing, delving deep into it, and negating it, for it is blameworthy that this should occur from the person and it indicates his ignorance of at-tawhid and his deviation, rejection, and arrogance. The ahadîth have come in criticism of al-Qadariyyah, i.e., those who dispute regarding al-qadar, saying that there is no divine decree.

Abû Dâwûd has reported on the authority of Ibn 'Abbâs âœ from the Prophet ﷺ that he said:

القدرية مجوس هذه الأمة.

Al-Qadariyyah are the Majûs of this ummah.22

Also in [Sunan] Abû Dâwûd there comes [the narration] on the authority of Ḥudhayfah bin al-Yamân ﷺ from the Prophet ﷺ that he said:

لكل أمة مجوس ومجوس هذه الأمة الذين يقولون: لا قدر.

Every ummah has Majûs and the Majûs of this ummah are those who

say there is no divine decree.23

As well as other narrations that have come criticizing them.

Also [like this is] the affair of theological rhetoric regarding seeing Allah in the hereafter, meaning [their] negation of that. Those who say that Allah will not be seen on the Day of Judgment are not correct. He who delves deep into that, disputes it, and claims that Allah will not be seen, then he is criticized and prohibited from that, as the author has mentioned. Imam al-Tahawi said, “Seeing Allah in the hereafter is true for the people of Paradise. However, they will not encompass Him nor are they to (delve into the) how, as the Qur’an has textually mentioned.”

Also [like this is the affair of] theological rhetoric regarding the Qur’an, which is the speech of Allah, the Majestic and High. Imam Ahmad was tormented regarding this issue and put to trial greatly due to it from the people of desires; i.e., regarding the affair that the Qur’an is the speech of Allah, the Magnificent, and not created. He was beaten, imprisoned, and punished on account of the fitnah of the Qur’an’s creation. Many of the scholars were put to trial due to it—from them are those who were killed, from them are those who were imprisoned, and from them are those who were tormented and beaten. This was from the schemes and plots of the Jews upon the tongues of the deviant Mu’tazilah who claimed Islam. May Allah give them what they deserve.

The author said, “Indeed, theological rhetoric regarding al-qadar, the seeing of Allah in the hereafter, and the Qur’an is detestable and prohibited.”

This is due to what it brings about from tribulations in the religion. Also, researching into it, delving deep into it, and arguing regarding it are from the affairs that cause doubt in the religion, schisms, and tribulations. These affairs disturb a person’s iman. This is from what the Shaytān and his associates want. Therefore, the Imam desired

to follow the path of the Salaf, for they did not delve into this due to the soundness of their disposition, the purity of their intellects, and the truthfulness of their imān. This is the path of safety; not that of philosophy and deviant ideologies.

Al-Imām at-Tahāwi mentioned in his blessed book of 'aqidah: “There is no safety except by way of the Qur'ān, and we testify that it is the speech of the Lord of all that exists. We do not say that it is created, nor do we oppose the jamā'ah of the Muslims.”

Ibn Abil-'Izz, the explainer of Al-'Aqidah at-Tahāwiyyah, said, “In general, Ahlus-Sunnah in their entirety, from the people of the four madhāhib and other than them from the earlier and later generations, are in agreement upon the fact that the Qur'ān is the speech of Allāh and not created.”

24 Explanation of 'Al-'Aqidah at-Tahāwiyyah' by Ibn Abil-'Izz (p. 185).
Even if the one who does so arrives at the Sunnah by way of his speech, he is not from Ahlus-Sunnah until he abandons disputation and submits to and believes in the narrations.

**Explanations**

I say: This is an excellent comment from this noble Imam. Imam Ahmad is excluding the person of theological rhetoric and the one who pursues the knowledge of theological rhetoric from being from Ahlus-Sunnah until he abandons this preeminent description of the people of theological rhetoric; i.e., argumentation and debate regarding the religion.

He said, "Even if the one who does so ..." The pronoun here is in reference to theological rhetoric, which came about in the preceding section in which he said, "Indeed, theological rhetoric regarding al-qadar, the seeing of Allâh in the hereafter, and the Qur'an..."

Theological rhetoric regarding these three affairs and delving into them are such that the one who does so is referred to as a person of theological rhetoric and he is from the people of theological rhetoric.

Ash-Shafi‘i said, "My ruling regarding the people of theological rhetoric is that they are to be beaten with stalks and shoes and they are to be paraded through the cities and towns, and it is to be said, 'These are those who have abandoned the Book of Allâh and the Sunnah and follow theological rhetoric.'"

Therefore, the reality of Imam Ahmad’s statement that the person
of theological rhetoric is not from Ahlus-Sunnah—and that which is other than the Sunnah is innovation—is that he is from the people of innovation.

And his statement, “...until he abandons disputation and submits to and believes in the narrations.” This is clear and contains no ambiguity. It means that the person of theological rhetoric must abandon disputation and argumentation and believe in the narrations and follow them in truth and sincerity (this is in reference to the authentic narrations). He must believe in them and follow them outwardly and inwardly. At that point, he will be from Ahlus-Sunnah and Allāh will pardon what preceded from him, and Allāh will accept repentance of the one who repents. And Allāh knows best.
And the Qur'an is the speech of Allah. It is not created. One should not be afraid to say that it is not created, for indeed the speech of Allah is not distinct from Him, and no part of it is created. Beware of disputing with the one who innovates regarding it and the one who says his articulation of the Qur'an is created and other than this.

Likewise [with the one] who is hesitant regarding it such that he says, "I don't know whether it is created or not." It is nothing except the speech of Allah. Therefore, the one who does this is a person of innovation just like the one who says it is created, for it is only the speech of Allah and it is not created.

**Explanation**

The author said, "The Qur'an is the speech of Allah." I say: The Qur'an is the speech of Allah written in the mushaf that is well known among the people; (it is) likewise preserved in their chests and recited in their prayer. It is what Allah has revealed to His Messenger by way of the trustworthy angel Jibril as revelation from Allah, the Majestic and High. This, in reality, is the speech of Allah, the Majestic and High. Allah spoke with it and Jibril heard it from Him and descended with it to Muhammad, the best of mankind, in order for him to guide the people therewith. The Messenger conveyed it to us and it reached us preserved and complete.
Shaykh `Abdur-Rahmân Muhiyyud-Din

Imâm at-Ţâhâwi said, “The Qur'ân is the speech of Allâh. From Him it began, without questioning how it is as a statement. Allâh sent it down to His Messenger by way of revelation. The believers affirmed it in truth and are certain that it is the speech of Allâh the Exalted in reality. It is not created like the speech of created beings.”

I say: The Imâm affirmed this before Imâm at-Ţâhâwi, so he was, in that, upon guidance and firmness. And he was put to trial regarding this such that he was tormented, beaten, and imprisoned, and he was patient, anticipating the reward from Allâh. This is the trial by way of which Allâh elevated him, to the point that it was said, “Were it not for Abû Bakr during the Wars of Apostasy and Ahmad during the fitnah (of the Qur'ân), Islam would have been lost.” Meaning, true Islam.

Therefore, he is the Imâm of Ahlus-Sunnah, in truth and in sincerity, for he faced the Imâms of the deviant innovators, the ignorant philosophers from the Mu'tazilah, the obstinate Jahmiyyah, and other than them from those who were in agreement with them and aided them upon it until the Day of Judgment. He affirmed the sound Islamic creed and he clarified it as it is in the Noble Qur'ân—that it is the speech of Allâh and the speech of Allâh is an attribute of Allâh. And His attributes, Glorified be He, are a part of His essence. Thus, they are not created, for His essence is not created. He is the Creator and all else besides Him is created. Hence, His attributes are not separate and distinct from Him, as the author said: “The speech of Allâh is not distinct from Him.” Meaning, it is not separate from Him.

So the attribute of speech is constantly a part of His essence and not separate from Him. He speaks by way of the attribute of speech. He spoke with the Qur'ân; therefore, the Qur'ân is His speech. He is the Creator and He is not created, so similarly, His attributes are not created. Hence, His speech is not created and the Qur'ân is from His speech. And the greatness of this attribute is the greatness of Him.

The Imâm said, “And beware of disputing with the one who innovates regarding it.” The Imâm is warning against those who have been put to trial regarding the Qur'ân, and they are the people.
of theological rhetoric whom Allāh has allowed to go astray.

Allāh the Exalted has said:

قُلْ هَلْ تَبَشَّرُنَّكُمْ بَالْحَسُرَّينَ أَعَمَّالًا ؟ الَّذِينَ صَلَّ
سَعَبُهُمْ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَهُمْ يَحْسِبُونَ أَنَّهُمْ يَحْسِبُونَ
صَعَّا

Say (O Muhammad): “Shall We tell you the greatest losers in respect of (their) deeds? Those whose efforts have been wasted in this life while they thought they were acquiring good by their deeds!”

[Sūrah al-Kahf 18:103-104]

Therefore, the author is warning against debating with those who have been led astray in this regard—the deviants who are upon a wayward path—and this is the path of theological rhetoric, boldness against Allāh, and speaking concerning Him without knowledge. This is to say the statement that the Qur'ān, which is the speech of Allāh and is an attribute from His great attributes, is created.

Allāh the Exalted has said:

كُلُّهَا كِتَابَةٌ نُخْرُوجُ مِنْ أَفْوَاهِهِمْ إِنْ يَقْوَلُونَ إِلَّا كَذِبًا

Tremendously heinous is the word that comes out of their mouths. They utter nothing but a lie.

[Sūrah al-Kahf 18:5]

Then the author also mentioned, in connection to these deviants, those who are similar to them from those who speak the statement of al-lafz. Meaning, he who says that his articulation of the Qur'ān is created. So [the author] declares the one who says this to be an innovator. This is because the statement, “My articulation of the Qur'ān is created,” is an ambiguous statement. This is because the statement, “My articulation of the Qur'ān...” can either be
understood to mean that which is articulated itself or the act of articulation, i.e., the performance of the act and the sound; meaning, the speech of the person himself. This ambiguity is what prevents one from speaking with this statement, and this is due to it being possible to interpret this statement either way; i.e., that which is articulated is created (meaning the Qur'an); and this is what has prevented Imām Ahmad from saying this statement, and Allāh knows best.

Therefore, the statement of Imām Ahmad wherein he said, "And beware of debating with the one who innovates regarding it," means he who says the Qur'an is created, and then he mentions, in connection to [this type of person], "And the one who says his articulation of the Qur'an is created and other than this." Meaning, [other than this] from the deviant statements that had no effect upon the Salaf, may Allāh's pleasure be upon them.

He also mentioned, in connection to that, he who is hesitant regarding this, meaning regarding the Qur'an, and thus he says, "I don't know if it is created or not created," meaning, he is in doubt and he is hesitant, so these doubts have entered upon him. Thus, he also warned against [this type of person], for it is a must that one be firm and not hesitant regarding the fact that the Qur'an is the speech of Allāh which He spoke with, in reality, and it is an attribute of His ṣ. This is an indication of the correctness of one's imān, and Allāh knows best.

Imām at-Tahāwi said, "Indeed the Qur'an is the speech of Allāh. From Him it began. And we do not question its 'how' in statement. He revealed it to His Messenger by way of revelation. The believers affirmed it in truth and are certain that it is the speech of Allāh, in reality, and it is not created like the speech of the creation."

Then Imām Ahmad refuted the speech of the people of innovation and misguidance with his statement: "It is only the speech of Allāh and it is not created." This is because speech is from the greatest of Allāh's attributes. Therefore, affirmation of this attribute for Allāh, the Majestic and High, is from the foundation of imān and it is magnification of Allāh, the Majestic and High. To negate it is negation of the
attribute of Allāh, the Majestic and High, and it is attributing inability to Allāh, such that one says He does not have the ability to speak. It is likewise attributing deficiency to Allāh, the Majestic and High, for He is perfect in His essence, His attributes, and His actions, with a perfection that is absolute.

Allāh said:

الناس كمثله شيء وهو السميع البصير

There is nothing like unto Him, and He is the All-Hearer, the All-Seeer.

[Sūrah ash-Shūrā 42:11]

Therefore, Allāh, in regard to His essence, His attributes, His names, and His actions, is absolutely perfect. He is between negation and affirmation — negation without denial of His attributes, and affirmation without likening them to the creation.

Al-Imām at-Tahāwi said, “He who does not avoid negation of Allāh’s attributes and likening them to the creation will slip and not arrive at absolving Him from deficiency.”
And to have *imān* in the fact that the believers will see Allāh on the Day of Judgment, as is reported from the Prophet ﷺ by way of the authentic narrations.

**Explanation**

I say: This issue is from the noblest issues connected to the foundations of the religion and from the most eminent of them, as Ibn Abīl-'Izz al-Hanafi Ḥanfī mentioned in his explanation of *Al-‘Aqīdah at-Tahāwīyyah*. Meaning, the issue of the believers seeing their Lord on the Day of Judgment; and it is the greatest bliss of Paradise, as has been authentically mentioned in the narrations and *ahādīth* from the Prophet of Allāh ﷺ wherein he mentioned that the believers would see their Lord in Paradise with their eyes, in reality, and it will not be a dream or vision.

Allāh the Exalted has said:

[الْيَوْمَ الَّذِي يَوْمُ الْقِيَامَةِ جَوَّاحٌ وَرَحِيمٌ ﴿۲۲﴾] 

Some faces that Day shall be shining and radiant. Looking at their Lord (Allāh)...

[Sūrah al-Qiyāmah 75:22-23]

And Allāh the Exalted has also mentioned:

[لِلْذِّينَ أَحْسَنُوا الْحُسْنَى ۚ وَرَيَادَةٌ ﴿۲۳﴾]

For those who have done good is the best (i.e.,
Paradise) and even more.

[Sūrah Yūnus 10:26]

Az-ziyādah ("even more") mentioned here has been explained by the Prophet ﷺ in that which is reported in Sahih Muslim on the authority of Suhayb, in which he said:

النظر إلى وجهه الكريم.

Looking at His noble Face.

Al-Ḥusnā is Paradise.

Muslim has reported in his Sahih, in "The Book of Iman, Chapter: Affirmation of the Believers Seeing Their Lord in the Hereafter," on the authority of Suhayb who said, "The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ recited the statement of Allāh:

For those who have done good is the best (i.e., Paradise) and even more.

[Sūrah Yūnus 10:26]

“Then he said:

إذا دخل أهل الجنة النار، وأهل النار الجنة، نادى مناد يا أهل الجنة إن كعم عند اللهو موعداً يريد أن ينجزكموه، فيقولون: ما هو؟ ألم ينقل موازينا وبيض وجهنا، وأدخلنا الجنة، ونجانا من النار، فيكشف الحجاب، فيظرون إليه، فما أعطاهم شيئا أحب إليهم من النظر إليه وهي الزيادة.

“When the people of Paradise enter Paradise and the people of the Hellfire enter the Fire, a caller will call out saying, “O people of Paradise, indeed you have an appointment with Allāh and He wants to favor you with something.” They will say, “What could this be?"
Did not He make our scales of good deeds heavy, brighten our faces, enter us into Paradise, and save us from the Fire?” So He will remove the veil and they will look at Him, and they will not have been given anything more beloved to them than looking at Him. And this is the increase.”

Many narrations have come in the Sahihayn containing affirmation of the seeing of Allâh. From them is the hadith of Abû Hurayrah, the hadith of Abû Sa‘îd, the hadith of Jarîr bin ‘Abdillâh al-Bajali, and the hadith of Abû Mûsâ. All of them are in the Sahihayn, and [there are] other than them from the ahadith that are affirmed from the Messenger of Allâh indicating clearly the affirmation of the believers seeing their Lord on the Day of Judgment, in reality, with there being no dispute regarding it.

Imâm Ibn Abîl-‘Izz al-Ḥanafi, the explainer of At-Tahâwiyyah, said, “Approximately 30 Companions have narrated ahadith regarding the seeing of Allâh, and those who have knowledge of them are certain that the Messenger said it.”

A group from among the proponents of theological rhetoric, from the Jahmiyyah, the Mu’tazilah, and other than them from those who negate Allâh’s attributes, have negated the believers seeing Allâh in the hereafter.

Imâm Ibn Abîl-‘Izz al-Ḥanafi also mentioned in his explanation of At-Tahâwiyyah, on p. 207: “The ones who oppose the believers seeing Allâh are the Jahmiyyah and the Mu’tazilah and those who follow them from the Khawârij and the Shi‘ah; (they have negated this). And their statement is false and rejected by way of the Book and the Sunnah. The Companions, the Tabi‘un, the Imâms of the religion whose Imamate is known in the religion, and the people of hadith have all affirmed the believers seeing Allâh in the hereafter.”

He went on to say: “This issue is from the noblest of issues connected to the religion’s foundations and the most eminent of them, and it is the pinnacle to which all who aspire must aspire, and for which those

Translator’s note: Meaning, Sahih Muslim and Sahih al-Bukhâri.
who compete must compete. Those who are veiled from seeing their Lord have truly been deprived and they have been driven away from its door.”

May Allāh make us from those who see Him and who are ennobled by Him.
And that the Prophet saw his Lord, for it is indeed reported from the Messenger of Allâh in an authentic narration reported by Qatâdah on the authority of ‘Ikrimah from Ibn ‘Abbâs. It is also reported from al-Ḥakam bin Abbân from ‘Ikrimah from Ibn ‘Abbâs. It is reported as well from ‘All bin Zayd on the authority of Yusuf bin Mihrân from Ibn ‘Abbâs. And the hadith, according to us, is to be taken upon its apparent meaning as it has come from the Prophet, and theological rhetoric regarding it is an innovation. However, we believe in it as it has come, upon its apparent meaning, and we do not debate anyone regarding it.

EXPLANATION

I say: The statement of Imâm Aḥmad in which he said, “And that the Prophet saw his Lord…”—the people of knowledge interpret this to mean that “seeing,” here, means in a dream; or he saw him with his heart and it is not that he saw him in a state of wakefulness with his eyes.

Shaykh-ul-Islām Ibn Taymiyyah said:

“As for ar-ru’yah (الرؤية, the seeing of Allâh), that which is affirmed in the Sahîh on the authority of Ibn ‘Abbâs is that he said, ‘Muḥammad saw his Lord with his heart on two occasions.’ A’ishah, (however), rejected that he saw his Lord. From among the people
there are those who reconcile between the two viewpoints, and they say that ‘Ā'ishah was rejecting the seeing with the eyes whereas Ibn ‘Abbās affirmed the seeing with the heart. The wordings that are affirmed from Ibn ‘Abbās are either absolute or restricted by way of the seeing being with the heart. At times, he said, ‘Muḥammad saw his Lord,’ and other times he said, ‘... with his heart,’ and no explicit wording is affirmed from Ibn ‘Abbās mentioning that he saw Him with his eyes.

"Similarly, Imām Aḥmad at times mentions the seeing as being absolute and at other times mentions it being with his heart. And no one has said they heard Imām Aḥmad saying he saw Him with his eyes. However, a group of his companions heard some of his absolute speech and they understood it from him to mean that [the Prophet] saw Him with his eyes, just as some of the people deem the speech of Ibn ‘Abbās to be absolute and understand from it that he saw Him with his eyes. That which necessitates that he saw Him with his eyes is not found in the evidences, and this is not affirmed from any of the Companions, nor is there in the Book and the Sunnah anything that would indicate this.

"Rather, the authentic texts indicate the negation of that, as is within Sahih Muslim on the authority of Abū Dharr that he said, 'I asked the Messenger of Allāh, “Did you see your Lord?” He said:

نور، أي أراه؟

"‘There was light; how could I see Him?!’" 26

"Allāh the Exalted has said:

Glorified (and Exalted) be He (Allāh) Who took His slave for a journey by night from al-Masjid al-Ḥarām

26 Reported by Muslim (#178).
to the farthest masjid (in Jerusalem), the neighborhood whereof We have blessed, in order that We might show him of Our signs.

[Surah al-Isra' 17:1]

"If he had seen Him with his eyes, then this would have had more right to be mentioned. Similarly, Allah said:

Will you then dispute with him about what he saw?!

[Surah an-Najm 53:12]

"Allah has also said:

Indeed, he (Muhammad) did see, of the greatest signs, of his Lord (Allah).

[Surah an-Najm 53:18]

"Had he seen Him with his eyes, then it would have been more proper to mention this.

"In the Sahihayn, on the authority of Ibn 'Abbas, it is mentioned concerning the statement of Allah the Exalted:

And We made not the vision that we showed you but a trial for mankind, and likewise the accursed tree.

[Surah al-Isra' 17:60]

"That he said, ‘This is in reference to the seeing of the eye. The Messenger of Allah saw Him on the night of al-Isra’. This is a reference to him seeing the signs about which he informed the
people he had seen with his eyes on the Night of Ascent. This was a trial for him, since some of them affirmed and believed in [these signs], whereas some of them belied him. And he did not inform them that he had seen his Lord with his eyes. And there is nothing in the authentic *ahadith* concerning al-Mi‘raj that would indicate this. And had this occurred, he would have mentioned that just as he mentioned other than it.”

Imām Ibn al-Qayyim mentioned in what he transmitted from his *shaykh*, Shaykh-ul-Islām Abū ‘Abbās Ibn Taymiyyah:

“Shaykh-ul-Islām Ibn Taymiyyah said, ‘The statement of Ibn ‘Abbas that he saw Him is not contradictory to this. Nor is his statement, “He saw Him with his heart.” It has been authentically reported from him that [the Prophet] said:

I saw my Lord, the Blessed and High.”

“‘However, this was not on the night of al-İsra’. Rather, it was in al-Madīnah when he was taken from them during the Fajr prayer, and then he informed them that he had seen his Lord on that night in his dream. It is on this that Imām Aḥmad based his viewpoint and thus said, “Yes, he saw Him in truth, for indeed the dreams of the prophets are reality and true.”

“‘However, Aḥmad did not say, “He saw Him with his two eyes in a state of wakefulness,” and whoever reported this from him was mistaken. However, sometimes he said, “He saw Him,” and other times he said, “He saw Him with his heart.” Therefore, the two narrations are reported from him. A third narration is reported from him, which came about at the liberty of his companions, in which he said, “He saw Him with the two eyes of his head.” And the texts of Imām Aḥmad are present, but none of them contain this.

27 *Majmū‘ al-Fatāwā* of Ibn Taymiyyah (6/509-510)
"As for the statement of Ibn ‘Abbas in which he said, "He saw Him with his heart on two occasions," this is extracted from the statement of Allāh:

\[
\text{ما كَذَّبَ الْفُؤَادُ مَا رَأَى}
\]

The (Prophet’s) heart lied not (in) what he (Muḥammad) saw.

[Sūrah an-Najm 53:11]

"Likewise, the statement of Allāh:

\[
\text{وَلَقَدْ رَأَى نَبِيٌّ أُخْرَى}
\]

And indeed he (Muḥammad) saw him at a second descent (i.e., another time).

[Sūrah an-Najm 53:13]

"What is apparent is that his statement is derived from this, due to what is authentically reported from the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم, that what he saw was Jibrīl ﷺ, and he saw him on two occasions in the actual form in which he was created. And the statement of Ibn ‘Abbas is what Imām Ahmad ﷺ based his statement on when he said, "He saw Him with his heart." And Allāh knows best.’”

I say: This is an abridgment of the research regarding Muṣṭafā seeing his Lord in the life of this world and that which Imām Ahmad mentioned wherein he said, "Indeed the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم saw his Lord.”

What is apparent, and Allāh knows best, is that a person seeing the Lord, the Majestic and High, in this dunyā with his two eyes in a state of wakefulness is not possible. Imām Ibn Abīl-‘zz al-Ḥanafī ﷺ mentioned in his explanation of Al-Aqidah at-Tahāwiyyah: “The ummah is in agreement upon the fact that no one in the life of this world will see Him with his two eyes. And they did not dispute regarding that except concerning our Prophet Muḥammad صلى الله عليه وسلم.”

Then he mentioned their points of contention and said, “And the
statement that he saw Him with his two eyes has no clear and decisive text to support it.”

Our shaykh, Shaykh Muhammad Amin ash-Shinqîti mentioned in his book Adwa’ al-Bayan: “The reality that the texts of the legislation indicate is that he did not see Him with his eyes. And there has not come from the Salaf anything stating that he saw Him. What is intended by ar-ru’yah (that he saw Him) is that he saw Him with his heart, as is reported in Sahih Muslim, and Allah knows best.”

Al-Hâfîz Ibn Hajar transmitted in Al-Fath, on the authority of al-Qâdî ‘Iyâd, that he said, “The authentic and well-known narrations affirm its occurrence (i.e., that the believers will see their Lord in the hereafter). As for in the dunyâ, Mâlik said, ‘He has never been seen in the dunyâ because He is everlasting, and that which is everlasting cannot be seen by that which is temporal. However, in the hereafter the visions will be given the ability to be everlasting, so that which is everlasting can see that which is everlasting.’”

In Sahih Muslim, it is mentioned on the authority of Abû Dharr that he said, “I asked the Messenger of Allah, ‘Have you seen your Lord?’ He said:

نور، أنتى أرآه؟

“There was light; how could I see Him!”

In another narration, he said:

رأيت نوراً.

I only saw light.”

Similarly, there is the hadith of Abû Mûsâ al-Ash’ari, which is also in Sahih Muslim, in which he said:

29 Fath al-Bâri (8/484)
30 Reported by Muslim (#178)
31 Reported by Ibn Hibbân (#58). Graded sahih by al-Albâni in Dhilal al-Jannah (#441).
His veil is made of light (in another narration: fire); if it were to be removed, then the light from His Face would scorch everything from His creation as far as His vision reaches.32

Imām Ibn Abil-'Izz al-Hanafi, the explainer of At-Tahāwiyyah, said, “The meaning of his statement to Abū Dharr wherein he said, ‘I saw light,’ is that he saw the veil. And the meaning of his statement, ‘There was light, I was not able to see Him,’ is that the ‘light’ refers to the veil that prevented him from seeing Him. Therefore, his statement, ‘How can I see Him?’ means, ‘How will I be able to see Him when there is the light; i.e, a veil between me and Him preventing me from seeing him?’ This is explicitly mentioned in the verse, and Allāh knows best.”

32 Reported by Muslim (#179)
And to have *imān* in the scale on the Day of Judgment, as has come in the narration: “The servant shall be weighed on the Day of Judgment and he will not be equal in weight to a mosquito’s wing.” And the actions of the people shall be weighed, as has come in the narration. (One must have) *imān* in this and affirm it, and turn away from the one who rejects this and abandon argumentation with him.

**EXPLANATION**

I say: The scale is well known. It is the tool that weighs things so their weight and measure may be known and so one may compensate another by way of it. Allāh, the Majestic and High, has informed us regarding the scale, as has the trustworthy Messenger. For indeed Allāh, the Majestic and High, due to the completion of His Justice with His servants, shall set up the scales on the Day of Decision in order to call people to account and recompense each slave in proportion to what he has earned in this life. However, what is the description of this scale? The description is unknown. It is upon us to have *imān* in it and to affirm what Allāh, the Majestic and High, and His Messenger ﷺ have informed us with.

The verses and *ahādīth* regarding this are many. From them is the statement of Allāh, the Majestic and High:
And We shall set up balances of justice on the Day of Resurrection, then none will be dealt with unjustly in anything. And if there be the weight of a mustard seed, We will bring it. And sufficient are We as reckiners.

[Surah al-Anbiyā‘ 21:47]

Al-Ḥāfīẓ Ibn Kathīr cited a narration from the Musnad in which Mustafā clarified the description of the reckoning, the scale, and the recompense. He said, “Imām Aḥmad reported on the authority of ‘A’ishah that a man from among the Companions of the Prophet sat in front of him and said, ‘O Messenger of Allāh, indeed I have some servants that lie to me, betray me, and are disobedient to me. If I curse them and beat them, then what is my affair as it relates to them?’

“The Messenger of Allāh said:

Their betrayal of you, disobedience to you, and lying to you, and your punishment of them, shall be called to account. If your punishment of them is in proportion to their action, then it will be sufficient and will neither be for you nor against you. If your punishment of them was less than their action, then it will be a virtue for you. And if your punishment of them was more than their action, then they shall take from you in proportion to what you have done on the Day of Judgment.

“He said, ‘The man began to weep and sob, so the Messenger of Allāh said:
Have you not read the Book of Allah wherein He said:

And We shall set up balances of justice on the Day of Resurrection, then none will be dealt with unjustly in anything. And if there be the weight of a mustard seed, We will bring it. And sufficient are We as reckiners.

[Sūrah al-Anbiya’ 21:47]

"The man said, 'By Allāh, O Messenger of Allāh, I have not found anything better for me and for them than separation from them. And I call you to witness that I have set all of them free.'"\(^{33}\)

What is apparent, and Allāh knows best, is that the slave shall be weighed as well, and his actions shall be weighed. Similarly, the scrolls on which his actions are written shall be weighed. It is reported in Ṣaḥīh al-Bukhārī on the authority of Abū Hurayrah ﷺ that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

Indeed a man shall come on the Day of Judgment being very large and fat, but he will not weigh the weight of a mosquito’s wing with Allāh.

Then he said:

أقرروا إذا شئتم: \(^{33}\) Shaykh al- albānī ﷺ declared the hadith to be ṣāhih in Sahih at-Tirmidhi (#3531), and Allāh knows best.
Recite if you wish:

فَلَا نُقيِمُ لَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَزَنَانًا

We shall not give them any weight on the Day of Resurrection.  

[Sūrah al-Kahf 18:105]

Al-Ḥāfiẓ al-Ḥākimi mentioned: “What is apparent from the texts, and Allāh knows best, is that the doer of the action, his action, and the scrolls of his actions shall all be weighed, because the aḥādīth that clarify the Qur'ān all mention this and there is no contradiction between them.”

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34 Reported by al-Bukhārī (#4729)  
35 Ma’ārij al-Qubūl (3/1205)
And that Allah the Exalted will speak to His servants on the Day of Judgment without an interpreter between Him and them. We must have *imān* in this and affirm it.

**Explanation**

Allāh speaking to His servants and them speaking to Him are both affirmed in the Book, the Sunnah, and the consensus [of the Muslims]. The attribute of speech is an attribute of perfection, and Allāh, the Majestic and High, has absolute perfection in terms of His essence, as well as His attributes. Therefore, the attribute of speech is not negated except by one who deludes himself, although some of those who claim (ascription to) Islām have mentioned this negation.

O our Lord, do not allow us to go astray after You have guided us.

Imām ʿAbd al-Ḥamīd b. Aḥmad b. Ṭāhir al-Ṣaffārī al-Baydawī al-Maṣʿūḥī (d. 635/1239) said, “Without an interpreter between Him and them.” This is extracted from the authentic narration in the *Sahihayn* in which he  said:

ما من أحد إلا وسيكلمه الله ليس بينه وبينه حاجب ولا ترجمان.

There is no one except that his Lord shall speak to him without any veil or interpreter between Him and them.\(^3\)

Also from what is affirmed in the *Sahihayn* is the narration:

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\(^3\) Reported by al-Bukhārī (#6039) and Muslim (#1016).
Allāh has said, “O Ādam,” and Ādam will say, “I am here at your service, O Allāh.” And then He will call out with a voice that is heard: “Remove the portion of your offspring that is for the Fire.”

From the greatest evidences for Allāh speaking to His slaves is this Noble Qur’ān, for it is His speech to which no falsehood can come, from before it or behind it. It is a challenge to the jinn and mankind, all together (to produce something similar to it). It is the speech of Allāh with which He spoke, in reality, and revealed to His Prophet, who is the seal of His messengers and His chosen slave. Allāh challenges the jinn and mankind by way of it, up until the Day of Resurrection, to produce something similar to it, and Allāh knows best.

37 Reported by al-Bukhārī (#7483) and Muslim (#222).
And to have imān in al-Hawd (the Fountain) and that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ has a hawd on the Day of Judgment. And his ummah will come to it. Its width and its length are one month’s journey. And its vessels are similar in number to the stars in the sky. [This is] based on what is authentically reported in the narrations from numerous routes of transmission.

EXPLANATION

I say: Al-Hawd is well known. It is the place where water collects. The Hawd here refers to the Hawd of the Prophet ﷺ on the plains on the Day of Judgment. His ummah will come to it and drink from it. Many ahadith that are affirmed from the Messenger of Allah ﷺ have come regarding it, to the point that they have reached a number greater than 30 and perhaps 40. Some of them are in the Sahihayn. Al-Ḥāfiz Ibn Hajar Ḥaseen has mentioned them and their number in his book Fath al-Bāri (the explanation of Sahih al-Bukhāri), and he mentioned within it al-Hawd—its description, its length, its width, its vessels, its taste, its smell, its color, and its coolness. He mentioned how it is cooler than ice, sweeter than honey, whiter than milk, and how its smell is better than the smell of musk and its vessels are similar in number to the stars in the sky.

The narrations regarding al-Hawd are mutawātirah.\(^\text{38}\) Al-Ḥāfiz

\(^\text{38}\) Translator’s note: Dr. Mahmūd at-Ṭāhān mentioned, when defining at-tawātir:
“Legislatively, it refers to that which so many narrators have reported that it is impossible for them to have united upon a lie.” (Taysir Mustalah al-Hadith p. 19)
Ibn Hajar said that they are more than 50 in number, as he mentioned in Al-Fath, and he said: “From that which is obligatory upon every sound-minded person is that they know these narrations and believe in them, and (that they believe) in the fact that Allah the Exalted has specified His Prophet Muḥammad with the Hawd, specifically mentioning it by name. And (he mentioned) its description and its drink in the authentic and well-known narrations which constitute knowledge that is irrefutable.”

I say: Despite this, some people of theological rhetoric reject it — may Allah fight them for their slander — to the point that al-Hāfiz Ibn Kathîr said, “That which has come regarding the Hawd of Muḥammad—may Allah make us of those who drink from it on the Day of Judgment—from the authentic and well-known narrations that have come by way of various routes of transmission, are abundant in number. Despite this, many of the people of innovation arrogantly negate them. Those who reject it say that it does not exist. They are deserving, therefore, of being blocked from coming to it. And he who denies a blessing will not attain it.”

Due to this, the people of knowledge from Ahlus-Sunnah wal-Jama'ah, especially Imām Ahmad, the Imām of Ahlus-Sunnah, have mentioned the Hawd in their books of 'aqidah due to the denial of it by the heretical people of theological rhetoric, and Allah knows best.

It has been reported that some people from [the Prophet’s] ummah will be driven away from it. They will be identified by the marks of their wudu', as the Messenger has informed us of that. And the Messenger will call out to them saying:

أصحابي أصحابي.

My Companions, my Companions.

Meaning, he will say to the angels who are driving them away from

39 Fath al-Bāri (11/477)
his Hawd to leave them so they may come to the Hawd, for indeed these are his people from the Muslims, whom he will recognize by the traces of their wudu', and the angels will say to him:

إِنَّكُ لَا تَدْرِي مَا أَحْدِثْتَ بَعْدَكَ

You do not know what they invented after you.

Meaning, that which they innovated into your Sunnah and your religion. Therefore, he will say:

سَحْقَاً سَحِقَاءً

Away with them, away with them.\(^{40}\)

Meaning, take them far away from me. And why are they being driven away and taken far away from him? It is due to the greatness of the crime they have committed, i.e., innovating into Allāh's religion and His legislation that which Allāh has not legislated and that which Allāh has not revealed. Due to this, every innovator and every person who invents an innovation in the religion of Islām exposes himself to being driven away from the Hawd of the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ.

O Allāh, make us firm upon the Sunnah of Your Prophet ﷺ until we meet him at the Hawd. And make us of those who will drink from his magnificent Hawd, O Allāh, the Most Generous, O Hearer of supplications.

And we are [more] merciful upon the people of innovation (than they are to themselves) by clarifying the Sunnah to them and magnifying it in their hearts so they can cling to it and thus abandon the innovation. For indeed, intense thirst on the Day of Judgment is a tremendous punishment.

\(^{40}\) Reported by al-Bukhārī (#6583) from the hadith of Sahl bin Sa'd as-Sā'idi.\(^{98}\)
And *imân* in the punishment of the grave, and that this *ummah* will be tested in their graves and asked about *imân*, Islam, who is one's Lord, and who is his prophet. Munkar and Nakîr will come to him in a manner that Allâh wills and how He wants. We must have *imân* in this and affirm it.

**EXPLANATION**

After the death of the individual and his burial in his grave, there shall either be mercy and bliss or there shall be punishment and the Fire. This is affirmed by way of the Book, the Sunnah, and the consensus of the Muslims. No one rejects this and negates it except a heretical Jahmi, as Imâm Ahmad has said. Allâh the Exalted has mentioned:

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( ﷺَلِيَّتُ اللَّهِ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِالْقُوَّةِ النَّابِيِّ فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا ﷺَوِبِ الْآخِرَةِ)
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Allâh will keep firm those who believe, with the word that stands firm in this world and in the Hereafter.

[Sûrah Ibrâhîm 14:27]

Likewise, Allâh, the Majestic and High, said concerning Fir'awn and his people:

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(فُوَفَةُ اللَّهِ سَيِّئَاتِ مَا مَكَّرُوا وَخَافُوا إِلَّا فَيَغْوَى سُوءُ)
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99
An evil torment encompassed Fir'awn's people. The Fire; they are exposed to it, morning and afternoon, and on the Day when the Hour will be established (it will be said to the angels): “Cause Fir'awn's people to enter the severest torment!”

[Sūrah Ghāfir 40:45-46]

Regarding to His statement, “...morning and afternoon,” this means that they are now being punished in the Fire of Hell in this dunyā, inside their graves. This is since morning and afternoon exist now, whereas there shall be no morning or afternoon in the hereafter.

Allāh has mentioned:

َلاَّ يَرَوْنَ فِيهَا سَمَّاٰهَا وَلَا زَمَّةٰهُمْ

They will see there neither the excessive heat of the sun, nor the excessive bitter cold.

[Sūrah al-Insān 76:13]

Their life in the graves is barzakhīyyah (related to the period between death and the resurrection) and none knows it except Allāh. Had Allāh not informed us regarding it, then we would not have known anything about it. There is no knowledge for us except what Allāh has taught us.

Imān in the punishment of the grave is included in imān in the Last Day, since it is from the affairs of the unseen which are not grasped by way of the intellect. It only comes about by way of information and revelation. The Prophet ﷺ has informed us regarding it with what has come in the Qur'ān and the Sunnah. This is from the conveyance that was due upon him, and he has indeed conveyed it. Therefore, it is upon us to have imān in it, to accept it, to be pleased with it, and to ask Allāh for firmness with the firm statement in this life and the
hereafter.

The fitnah of the grave refers to the questioning therein; and we ask Allah for firmness. One will be questioned concerning his Lord, his religion, and his prophet. Many authentic ahadith have come regarding this, mentioning that when the slave is placed in his grave, the two angels come to him, make him sit up, and ask him these questions. From what has come regarding the punishment of the grave is that which is in Sahih Muslim, wherein the Prophet ﷺ said:

إِن هَذِهِ الْأُمْةِ تَتَبَلَّى فِي قُبُورَهَا، فَلَوْلاَ أَنِ لاَ تَدَافَنَا لَدَعْوَتِ اللَّهِ أَن يَسْمَعَكُمْ مِنْ عَذَابِ الْقُبُورِ الَّذِي أَسْمَعْتُهُ.

Indeed, this ummah shall be tested in their graves. Were it not that you would be prevented from burying your deceased, I would have supplicated to Allah to allow you to hear the punishment of the graves which I hear.41

Therefore, Muṣṭafā ﷺ would hear and know about a portion of that, since Allah caused him to hear it and informed him of it, and he is the one who is truthful and believed.

It has been reported that the believer shall have his grave expanded for him and will experience bliss therein, whereas the disbeliever and the hypocrite will have his grave tightened to the point that his ribs interlace. Therefore, the grave is either a garden from the gardens of Paradise or a pit from the pits of the Fire. This is a reality and it is not allegorical. Every deceased person shall be questioned and tried, whether he is buried in his grave or not buried in his grave, whether he is at land or at sea, whether beasts of prey ate him or he was consumed by a whale—even if he was burned and his ashes were scattered in the wind. Indeed, Allah is able to do all things and He is not incapable of anything.

It is narrated that a man had transgressed against himself and the fear of Allah had gripped him as a result, so he said to his sons, “When I

41 Reported by Muslim (#2867) from the hadith of Zayd bin Thābit.
die, burn my body and crush it into ashes, and wait for a day when
the wind is intense and toss me into it. For indeed, if Allah were to
catch hold of me, He would punish me severely in a manner in which
He has not punished anyone from mankind.” Allah commanded the
earth to gather what was thrown into it from his body, and the sea to
gather what was thrown into it from his body, and [He] brought him
back again and then questioned him, saying, “What has caused you
to do what you have done?” He said, “The fear of you, O Lord.” So
Allah forgave him.42

This indicates that Allah is able to resurrect the human being a second
time, as Allah has said:

> كَمَا بَدَأْنَا أَوَّلَ خَلْقٍ نُعْيَدُهُ

Just as We began the first creation, We shall repeat it.

[Sūrah al-Anbiya’ 21:104]

Therefore, the ability of Allah is over everything and there is nothing
He is incapable of. He created this creation, with its heavens and
earth and all that is in them from signs and lessons, out of nothing-
ness. This is evidence for the greatness of Allah and His ability.

Allah has said:

> إِنَّمَا قُوْلُنَا لِيَشْهَدَِّ أُزُدُّنَا أَنْ نَقُولُ لَهُ كَنْ فَيَكْونُ

Verily! Our word unto a thing, when We intend it, is
only that We say unto it, “Be!” and it is.

[Sūrah an-Nahl 16:40]

And Allah has also mentioned:

> مَذْكُورًا

> هَلْ أُتِيَ عَلَى الْإِنْسانِ جَينٌ مِّنَ الدَّهْرِ لَمْ يَكُن شَيْنًا

42 Reported by al-Bukhāri (#3481) from the hadith of Abū Hurayrah.  

102
Has there not been over man a period of time, when he was nothing to be mentioned?

[Sūrah al-Insān 76:1]

May Allāh fight against the atheists, the materialists, the secularists, the communists, the disbelievers, and the rejecters, for they have not estimated Allāh with His rightful estimate. May Allāh fight them for their slander.

The hadith of al-Bara’ bin ‘Āzib ️ speaks regarding this issue, and its chain of narration is authentic. It is reported by Imām Aḥmad in his Musnad from a number of routes of transmission. It is in the Musnad (4/287, 288, 295, and 297). It is also reported by Abū Dāwūd (#4153) as well as Ibn Mājah (#1548). It is a long hadith regarding the taking of the servant’s soul, and its bliss and punishment in the grave. Shaykh al-Albānī ️ has graded it sahih in Sahih Ibn Mājah (#1258). Therefore, one may return to it if he wants the reminder, for indeed, there is a lesson in it for one who seeks to be reminded, and it is from the light of prophecy, and Allāh knows best.
And to have *imān* in the intercession of the Prophet ﷺ and in the fact that people will be taken out of the Fire after having been burned and turned into charcoal. Allāh will command that they be tossed into a river at the door of Paradise, as has come in the narration. This will occur as Allāh wills and however He wants. It is upon us only to have *imān* in it and to affirm it.

**Explanation**

The term *ash-shafā‘ah* (الشفاعة) is derived from *ash-shaf‘* (شاف، even), which is the opposite of *al-witr* (الوائط, odd). This is when the interceder speaks on behalf of the one for whom he is interceding, or the one who is interceding seeks to intercede for another and speaks to the one who is being interceded with.

The verses and authentic *ahdāth* as well as the consensus of the *ummah* establish that our Prophet ﷺ is the interceder on the plains of resurrection. Many *ahdāth* have proven that Muṣṭafā ﷺ will take some people who have entered the Fire out of it on the Day of Judgment and thus they will exit from it. This is from the bounty of the Most Merciful of those who show mercy and the intercession of the chief of the messengers. This will also be for those whom Allāh wills to have His grace upon from other than them, and thus [He will] allow them to intercede in order to remove people from the Fire.

The filthy and despicable Khawārij deny this and say that whoever enters the Fire will never come out of it. Sufficient for them is that
they will be prevented from Allāh’s mercy, since they prevent others from it. Anas bin Mālik ﷺ said, “Whoever denies the intercession will have no portion of it.”43

I say: The intercession is of two types:

1) The affirmed intercession (شُفَاعَة مُبْتَنِة)

2) The negated intercession (شُفَاعَة مَنْفِيَة)

One may also say “the correct intercession” and “the false intercession.”

The false intercession is that which the polytheists connect to their idols; thus, they worship them and believe that they shall intercede for them with Allāh. As Allāh the Exalted has said:

وَيَعْبُدُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ مَا لَهُمْ مِنَ الْمِلَّةِ لَا يَضْرُّهُمْ وَلَا يَفْوَهُمْ

وَيَقُولُونَ هُؤُلَاءِ شَفَاعَاتُنَا عَنْدَ اللَّهِ

And they worship besides Allāh things that hurt them not, nor profit them, and they say, “These are our intercessors with Allāh.”

[Sūrah Yūnus 10:18]

So Allāh belied them by way of His statement:

قلِ لَّلَّهِ الْشَّفَاعَةُ جَمِيعًا

Say: “To Allāh belongs all intercession.”

[Sūrah az-Zumar 39:44]

As well as His statement:

مَنْ ذَلِكَ الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عَنْدَهُ إِلَّا يَذَّلِينَهُ

43 Reported by Hinād in Az-Zuhd (#179).
Who is he that can intercede with Him except with His permission?

[Surah al-Baqarah 2:255]

And Allah also said:

وَكَمْ مِنْ مُّلُكِ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ لَا غَنِيضُ مَعَهُمْ مُّنَابًا إِلَّا مِنْ بُعْدِ أَنْ يَأْذَنَ اللَّهُ لَمْ يَبْدِيلَ اللَّهُ نَيْسًا وَيَرْضَى

And there are many angels in the heavens, whose intercession will avail nothing except after Allah has given leave for whom He wills and pleases.

[Surah an-Najm 53:26]

Therefore, no one can intercede with Allah except after Allah has given him permission and His pleasure. The intercession is sought from Allah alone; this is the correct intercession and it is that which is affirmed by the believers and believed in by them.

As for the affirmed and true intercession, this is the intercession of the Messenger ﷺ, as well as the rest of the prophets, the truthful, the martyrs, and the righteous, as is reported from the Prophet ﷺ in detail, and they are five types:

1) The greater intercession. This is specific to our Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ and it is for the people who have been standing in order for the Judgment to commence. This is what the prophets and messengers will all pass on, from Adam to Nūḥ to Ibrāhīm to Mūsā to ‘Īsā, and ‘Īsā will say, “Go to Muḥammad ﷺ.” So he will head towards the throne of ar-Rahmān and he will fall down prostrate beneath it, and Allah will reveal to him statements of praise and excellent statements of laudation upon Allah, which He had not revealed to anyone before him. Then it will be said to him, “O Muḥammad, raise your head; ask and you shall be given, intercede and your intercession shall be accepted.”44 This is the greater intercession.

44 Reported by Ibn Mājah (#3481); graded sahih by al-Albānī in Sahīh Ibn Mājah (#3481).
2) The intercession for the people of Paradise so that they may enter into it; and [the Prophet] is the first who will enter it, as is reported in the authentic narrations. From them is the hadith of Abū Hurayrah as well as Ḥudhayfah Ḥ, which is in Sahih Muslim, wherein he said:

Allāh  will gather the people and the believers will stand until Paradise draws near to him.  Adam will come and they will say, “O our father, open Paradise for us.” So he will direct them to Ibrāhīm and Ibrāhīm will direct them to Mūsā, and Mūsā will direct them to ‘Īsā, and ‘Īsā will direct them to Muhammad. So he will stand and permission will be granted for him.45

3) [The Prophet’s] intercession for his uncle, Abū Ṭālib. The evidence for this is in Sahih Muslim as well (#209), and it comes on the authority of ‘Abbās bin ‘Abdul-Muțṭalib  that he said, “O Messenger of Allāh, will you be able to benefit Abū Ṭālib at all? For indeed, he used to protect you and get angry on your behalf.” He said:

Yes, he will be in a shallow portion of the Fire. Were it not for me, he

45 Reported by Muslim (#195) from the hadith of Abū Hurayrah Ḥ.
would have been in the lowest depths of the Fire.\footnote{Reported by Muslim (#209)}

4) His intercession for people such that their levels and stations in Paradise will be elevated.

5) His intercession for those who deserve the Fire so that they will not enter it, or for those who have entered it to come out of it. This is (exclusively) for the believers from the people of \textit{tawhid}. As for the disbelievers, then [it is] as Allāh has said:

\begin{quote}
\textit{فَمَا لَنَا مِنَ شَافِئِينَ وَلَا صَانِعِيْ حَميْمِ}
\end{quote}

\textit{Now we have no intercessors, nor a close friend (to help us).}

\textit{[Surah ash-Shu’ara’ 26:100-101]}

And in regard to this, the prophets, the truthful, the martyrs, and the righteous will all share in this along with him such that they will be able to intercede as well, as is reported in \textit{Sahih Muslim} wherein Allāh \textregistered said concerning the commencement of the Judgment:

\begin{quote}
شَفَعَتُ الملائِكَةَ وَشَفَعُ النَّبِينَ وَشَفَعُ المؤْمِنِينَ وَلَمْ يَبِقَ اِلَّا أَرْحَمُ
الرَّاحِمِينَ فِي بَيْضِ قَبْضَةٍ مِنَ النَّارِ فِي خَرْجِهَا مِنْهَا قَمُوا لَمْ يَعْمَلُوا خِبَارًا قَتَ
عَادَوْا حَسَبًا فِي ثُلَثِيْمِ فِي نَهَرٍ فِي أَقَافَهِ الْجَنَّةُ يَقُولُ لَهُ نَهْرُ الحَيَاةِ فِي خَرْجُ
كَمَا تَخْرَجُ الْحَيَاةُ فِي حَمِيلِ السِّيْلِ أَلَا تَرَونَا تَكُونُ إِلَى الْحَجْرِ أَوَّلًا تَكُونُ إِلَى الْحَجْرِ
الشَّجَرُ ما يَكُونُ إِلَى الْشَّمْسِ أَصْيَفُرُ وَأَخْيَرُ وَمَا يَكُونُ إِلَى الْظَّلِّ يَكُونُ أَيْضًا.
\end{quote}

The angels have interceded. The prophets have interceded. The believers have interceded. And it does not remain except the Most Merciful of those who show mercy. So He will take a portion from the Fire and He will remove from it a people who have not done any good. They will have been burned and He will toss them into the river at the gate of Paradise, which is called the River of Life. And
they will come out like a seed carried by the torrent comes out. Have you not seen a stone or the trees, and that the part facing the sun is yellow or green and the part that is shaded is white?*47

And Allāh knows best.

* Reported by Muslim (#183)
And ʾimān that al-Masih ad-Dajjal will come out and there will be written between his two eyes “kāfir.” And to affirm the ḥadīth that have come regarding him and to have ʾimān that this will take place. And to believe that ‘Īsā bin Maryam ʿa.s. will descend and kill him at the gate of Ludd.

EXPLANATION

Al-Masih ad-Dajjal is the Jewish Messiah of misguidance. He is called Masih because he will sweep the entirety of the earth—meaning, he will enter into it—with the exception of Makkah and Madinah. The ḥadīth have come regarding his coming out, his description, his timeframe, and his tribulations, and [these narrations] are many, reaching the level of at-tawātur. Some of them are in the Sahihayn, and it is not for the one who has intellect to reject them. None rejects them except one who is obstinate, arrogant, and has deluded himself. Imam ash-Shawkāni has mentioned them in his treatise At-Tawdih Fi Tawātur Mā Jāʾa fil-Muntazar wad-Dajjal wal-Masih. He has mentioned 100 narrations in it.

As-Suyūṭi has mentioned in his book Ad-Durr al-Manthrūr that the ḥadīth regarding it are mutawātirah. Likewise, this is mentioned by al-Kattānī in his book An-Nazam al-Mutanāthrī.

Allāh has made [the Dajjal] to be a trial for the slaves. Rather, he is the greatest trial that will take place before the Hour and he will emerge in this ummah; there is no avoiding it, to the point that every
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prophet has warned his ummah against him. He is a person from among the human beings by way of whom Allāh will put His slaves to trial.

Allāh has said:

أَحْسِبَ الْمَسْأَلَةَ أَن يُتَرَكُّواْ أَن يَقُولُواْ أَمَّن أَوْهُمْ لَا يُعْفِنُونَ

Do people think they will be left alone because they say, “We believe,” and will not be tested?

[Surah Al-'Ankabūt 29:2]

Allāh will give him the ability to do certain things that no human being can do, as a trial for them.

Muṣṭafā has informed us regarding him, advising the ummah and fulfilling his obligation in doing so, and these things that he will be able to do are from the likes of bringing the dead to life, causing the rain to come down, causing vegetation to grow, and other than this from what the truthful one, the one who is believed, has informed us of and which is authentically reported from him.

This Dajjāl will claim divinity by way of what Allāh causes to occur at his hands from these tribulations, while Allāh has caused similar actions to occur at the hands of the one who will kill him, i.e., the Messiah of guidance, ʿĪsā, the son of Maryam. He also did the likes of these things, such as bringing the dead to life and curing the one who was born blind and the leper. However, as he would say, this all occurred by Allāh’s permission, and this was an affirmation of his servitude to his Lord. But the Messiah of misguidance, due to his arrogance, his disbelief, and his Jewish nature, will claim he is doing these things from his own ability, and he will want from this that the people worship him. May Allāh fight him.

Due to this, his helpers and followers are the Jews, the most despicable and worst nation, in terms of their disbelief, to be found on the face of the earth. (They are) those who murdered the prophets and spread much corruption on earth; and every time they kindle
the flame of war, Allāh extinguishes it. Those who spread corruption on earth from disbelief, *shirk*, heresy, fornication, *ribā*, obstinacy, shamelessness, and widespread corruption, as well as various types of deviations and every false doctrine on the earth, [this] is brought about by way of them and at their hands. And today they are in a seemingly superior position on earth, as Allāh has said:

«أَتَفَسَّدُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَّتَيْنِ وَلَمْ تُعَلِّمُوا كَبِيرًا»

Indeed, you would do mischief on the earth twice, and you will become tyrants and extremely arrogant!

[Sūrah al-Isrā’ 17:4]

The Jews will be the greatest helpers to ad-Dajjāl and from his followers, may Allāh fight them; how they slander! And they have not gathered in Palestine except to cause corruption and to await their greatest criminal, the one-eyed Dajjāl. However, this is by the permission of Allāh so that He may bring about His decision regarding them.

He is coming, and this is inevitable, as the authentic reports from the Messenger of Allāh regarding that affirm. Due to this, it is obligatory to have *imān* in his emergence and to affirm that, as the narrations have authentically mentioned. This is from the *'aqidah* of the Muslim. Rather, it is obligatory upon the Muslim to seek refuge with Allāh from his *fitnah*, especially in the five prayers, since it is the greatest *fitnah* from which no one will be safe except the one whom Allāh makes safe. Therefore, O Allāh, protect us from his *fitnah*.

Likewise, it is obligatory upon the Muslim to have *imān* in the descent of ʿĪsā bin Maryam from the heavens. He will descend, and this is inevitable, after Allāh had raised him up to Himself and protected him from the evil of the Jews when they wanted to kill him and crucify him. Therefore, he will descend in order to break the cross and slaughter the pigs while the Jews are with their greatest liar at the gate of Ludd, where Allāh has gathered them today for their demise.
The authentic *ahadith* have come regarding the Muslims fighting the Jews and slaughtering them in Palestine to the point that a Jew will hide behind a tree and a stone, fleeing from the Muslim killing him; and the stone and tree will speak and say, “O Muslim, O slave of Allah, there is a Jew behind me; come kill him.” For they are the most despicable nation, to the point that the trees and stones curse them and seek refuge with Allah from their evil and desire that they should be killed. They are the nation of corruption and vileness.

Allah will bring humiliation, anger, and curses upon them until the Day of Judgment. They are the followers of ad-Dajjāl and his helpers, as is inevitable. Similarly, (his followers are) from those whom the Jews have put to trial, from the secularists, the liberalists, and other than them, by way of their heresy and ideologies, and their deviant shenanigans and deviated ideas. And Allah is the one who will bring about His command; however, most of mankind do not know.

The term “ad-Dajjāl” (الدجال) is derived from *ad-dajal* (الدجَلُ), which means “a lie,” for he is the biggest liar from Allah’s creation, to the point that he will claim divinity, while Allah says:

\[
\text{وَمَا مِنْ إِلَّا اللَّهِ إِلَّا الدِّجَالُ}
\]

*And there is no (true) deity except Allah*

[Sūrah Āl ‘Imrān 3:62]

He will delude the servants and lie to them, and they will believe him. And none will believe in him and attest to his truthfulness except the one for whom Allah has decreed misery.

The *ahadith* that have come regarding his emergence, his description, and the description of his *fitnah* are many. Rather, they are *mutawāti-rāh*, as has been transmitted by the people of knowledge, and they are mentioned in the authentic books of narrations and the *Masānīd*. Likewise are the narrations regarding ‘Īsā bin Maryam and his killing of the Dajjāl, to the point that this is a portion of the belief system of the Muslims and none rejects it except an arrogant and obstinate person who deludes himself; and Allah knows best.
Point of Benefit:  Hudhayfah bin al-Yamān ﷺ, the secret-keeper of the Messenger of Allāh and the one who was knowledgeable regarding fitan, mentioned, “The first of the tribulations is the murder of 'Uthmān and the last of the tribulations is the emergence of ad-Dajjāl. By He in whose Hands is my soul, no man will die who has within his heart an atom's weight of pleasure for the murder of 'Uthmān except that he will follow ad-Dajjāl if he encounters him. And if he does not encounter him, he will believe in him from within his grave.”48
And *imân* is statement and action. It increases and decreases. As has come in the narration: "The most complete of the believers in his *imân* is the best of them in character."

**EXPLANATION**

I say: All praise is for Allâh, this is the statement of the Salaf and there is no difference between them in this. *Îmân* in Allâh, in reality, is the greatest thing in this life and the most valuable of that which Allâh gives to His servant in the *dunyâ*. None rejects it and denies it except one for whom Allâh has written misery, and thus he is the most miserable of all the creation.

*Îmân* is that which is firmly embedded in the heart, and actions attest to its truthfulness. Due to this, Ahlus-Sunnah state: "*Îmân* is statement and action." *Îmân*, in its linguistic definition, is *tasdiq* (affirmation) in the heart. Affirmation in the heart is the statement of the heart and the actions of the heart from *at-tawakkul* (trust), *al-i'timâd* (reliance), *al-inâbah* (turning repentantly to Allâh), *al-khawf* (fear), *ar-raja'* (hope), *al-isti'ânah* (seeking aid), *al-istighâthah* (seeking salvation), *at-tuma'înîh* (tranquility), and *as-sakinîh* (comfort); these are the actions of the heart, and the actions of the heart are not actualized except that they purify the actions of the limbs. Otherwise, there is no *îmân* for the person. This is because actions of the limbs are a must for *îmân* to be actualized.

Due to this, Ahlus-Sunnah are united upon the fact that *îmân* is statement and action; it increases and decreases. [This is] in opposition to the deviant Murjih'ah and other than them from the people of
And Allāh would never make your īmān to be lost.

[Surah al-Baqarah 2:143]

Meaning, your prayer towards Bayt al-Maqdis. This was before the changing of the qiblah to the Ka’bah. Allāh has referred to the prayer as being īmān, while it is an action. This indicates that īmān is statement and action, because the prayer consists of statements and actions. It is opened by way of the takbīr and closed by way of the taslim. Due to this, Imām Ahmad stated that whoever abandons the prayer has disbelieved, as shall come; he deemed it to be a part of al-īmān because Allāh named it as such. And he who abandons īmān has disbelieved, and there is no ambiguity in this.

It is authentically reported that the Prophet said, as is within Šaḥīḥ Muslim:

Al-īmān is seventy-some odd branches; the highest of them is the statement “lā ilāha illAllāh” (none has the right to be worshiped except Allāh) and the lowest of them is to remove something harmful from the path, and modesty is a branch of īmān.⁴⁹

Therefore, he included all actions under the title of al-īmān. The statement “lā ilāha illAllāh” is an action of the tongue, and to remove something harmful from the path is an action of the limbs. And al-ḥayā’ is from īmān, and this is an action of the heart. The truthful one who is believed combined these three affairs in this narration; and he has been given jawāmi’ al-kalim (concise speech that is profound in its meanings and implications). So what can there be after truth except misguidance? Thus, he has considered these and other than

⁴⁹ Reported by Muslim (#35) from the hadith of Abū Hurayrah Ṣа.
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them to be *al-īmān*.

He said, “*Al-īmān* is seventy-some odd branches.” And he mentioned these three examples to indicate that *īmān* is statement, action, and belief. May prayers and peace be upon the truthful advisor. He clarified the affairs of the religion to us and he left us upon a radiant and clear path; its night is like its day, and none deviates from it except one who is destroyed.

Therefore, after the Messenger has clarified *al-īmān*, there is no need for any other speech. He said, “*Al-īmān* is seventy-some odd branches.” And this is what is called *īmān*. It is more than seventy-some odd branches, and all of them are established within the believing slave. They are of various levels, all of them entering into these three primary pillars that Muṣṭafā  has mentioned. The servant must establish each of them, otherwise they will be of no benefit to him. So he must say that none has the right to be worshiped except Allāh, and if the servant says it without believing in it and acting upon it, it will not benefit him. Similarly, removal of something harmful from the path— if a person were to do it without having sound belief, then it would not benefit him. It will be like scattered floating dust particles. Likewise, having *al-hayā* (modesty), which is an action of the heart. However, if one does not openly display actions upon the limbs, then he has no modesty in reality. And there is no good in the one who has no modesty.

Due to this, the statement means that *īmān* brings together all actions, it is of various branches (which Muṣṭafā  has mentioned), and it increases and decreases in the servant in proportion to his establishment of those branches and his actualization of them in his life. And we say that the servants vary in their *īmān*, its increase, and its decrease, in proportion to their establishment of these branches. Allāh  has informed us and mentioned that *īmān* increases, as is within his statement:

\[
\text{لَيْبَرَّدُوا إِيمَانًا مَّعَ إِيمَانِهِمْ}
\]

That they may grow more in faith along with their
Likewise, Allah said:

\[
\text{ٍفَزَادَهُمُ إِيمَانًا}
\]

*But it (only) increased them in faith.*

[Sūrah Āl-İmān 3:173]

Everything that is subject to increase is also subject to decrease. And the increase or decrease of *imān* is in relation to the servant’s actions—legislatively, intellectually, and by way of common sense. This is something the servant himself knows and recognizes in his life. The more he establishes what Allah has commanded and stays away from what Allah has prohibited, he will find within himself pleasure, contentment, tranquility, and the love for Allah that those who do not have these affairs will not find; to the point that one of them may say, “We are in a state of happiness which, if the kings had known we had it, they would have sought to seize it from us by way of the sword.”

I say: This is the fruit of *imān* due to the establishment of what Allah, the Majestic and High, has commanded, and the abandonment of what Allah has prohibited, out of fear, love, and hope. Shaykh-ul-Islām Ibn Taymiyyah mentioned, in *Majmū‘ al-Fatāwā*, the statement of Imam ash-Shafi‘i: “There was consensus among the Companions and the Tābi‘īn after them and those who encountered them upon the statement that *imān* is statement, action, and intention. And one of them will not suffice without the others.”

I say: These three affairs are the pillars of *al-īmān*:

1) Statement

2) Action

\[\text{50 Majmū‘ al-Fatāwā 7/209}\]
3) Intention

Statement of the tongue, action of the limbs, and the intention of the heart. It could also be said “statement and action.” The statement of the heart and the statement of the tongue. The action of the heart and the action of the limbs. It increases and decreases; and the terminology used by the Salaf revolves around this. All of them are correct and bear the same meaning; i.e., that action is from *imān*, and this is the action of the heart as well as the limbs. So he who says with his tongue and believes with his heart but does not act, then he is a Murji‘i, if he does not have an excuse for not acting or a reason that prevents him from doing actions.

Shaykh-ul-Islām Ibn Taymiyyah  said in his book *Kitāb al-*İmān*, which is from the greatest of the books that were written in this regard, “In regard to *imān*, its origin is the *imān* in the heart and it is a must that two affairs be present: *at-taṣdiq* (affirmation) in the heart, as well as its confirmation and recognition of it. Due to this, it is said that [*imān*] is the statement of the heart, then the statement of the body and its actions. And it is a must that actions of the heart be present, such as love of Allāh and His Messenger, sincerity in one’s actions for Allāh alone, reliance of the heart upon Allāh alone, and other than this from the actions of the heart that Allāh and His Messenger have made obligatory and considered to be a part of al-*imān*.

“Moreover, the origin regarding the heart, if it has acknowledgment of and desire for that which is with Allāh, is that this will necessarily lead to the action of the body, and it is not possible for the body to do other than that which the heart desires. Due to this, the Prophet  said:

ألا وإن في الجسم مضغة وإذا صلت صلحت الجسم وإذا فسدت فسد الجسم كلله ألا وهى القلب.

“Indeed, there is a morsel of flesh in the body; if it becomes pure, then the body in its entirety becomes pure, and if it is corrupted,
then the body in its entirety is corrupted, and this is the heart." \(^51\) \(^52\)

I say: Imam Ahmad used as evidence the authentic narration that mentions, "The most complete of the believers in terms of imān," using this narration to establish that imān increases and decreases. This is because decrease is the opposite of completion. Therefore, the statement:

أَكْمَلُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِيمَانًا أَحْسَنَهُمْ حَلَقًا.

The most complete of the believers in terms of imān is the best of them in his character.\(^53\)

Means the one who has correct and complete imān. Shaykh-ul-Islām Ibn Taymiyyah also said in Al-Majmū’ al-Fatawā (7/582): “Complete imān in the heart without its outward components from action and statement is like something that makes something else binding without the thing that it makes binding, or the complete reason without the presence of that which justifies it; it will be prevented from existing.”

I say: Perhaps his intended meaning by “complete” is correct. İmān obligates statement and action. Therefore, he who abandons statement while having the ability to make the statement is a disbeliever by way of consensus, as Shaykh-ul-Islām has affirmed.

He also mentioned in Majmū’ al-Fatawā: “İmān is statement and action, as has preceded. From that which is inconceivable is that a person can be a believer with firmness in his heart, meaning one who has correct imān in the fact that Allah has made prayer, zakāh, fasting, and Hajj obligatory upon him, yet he lives the entirety of his life and does not make a single prostration, nor does he fast Ramadān, nor does he pay the zakāh for the sake of Allah, nor does he make Hajj

\(^{51}\) Kitāb al-İmān (pp. 176-177)
\(^{52}\) Reported by al-Bukhārī (#52 and 2051) and Muslim (#1599) from the hadith of an-Nu’mān bin Bashīr رضي الله عنه.
\(^{53}\) Reported in Shu’ūb al-İmān (6/2718) from the hadith of ‘A’ishah ﷺ. Graded sahih by al-Albānī in Mukhtāsar as-Silsilāt as-Ṣaḥīḥāt (#284).
to His House. This is inconceivable and this does not emanate except with hypocrisy and heresy in the heart. It will not take place with the presence of true imān except due to an excuse, such as one having embraced Islām at the beginning of the day and then dying before Zuhr. In this case, no prayer was obligatory upon him and he was not able to form a single rak`ah for the sake of Allāh. By way of this, one could be Muslim yet not perform a single rak`ah for the sake of Allāh, and Allāh knows best.”

I say: By way of this, it is known that action is a required element of imān by way of the heart and the tongue, and it is not separate and distinct from it. And this is along with the ability to do so, and Allāh knows best.

Shaykh-ul-Islām also mentioned in Majmū' al-Fatāwā: “If the person does not utter the statement of imān while having the ability to do so, this indicates that he does not have the obligatory imān in his heart that Allāh has made binding upon him.”

He also mentioned in Majmū' al-Fatāwā: “It is inconceivable that the one who believes in his heart with the imān that is binding would not utter the two testimonies while having the ability to do so, for not uttering the two testimonies while having the ability to do so negates complete imān in the heart.”

I say: He is referring here to the correct imān in the heart. He also mentioned: “If the servant is devoid of actions in totality, then he is not a believer. This is because the reality of the religion is obedience and yielding in submission, and this is not completed except through actions, and not by statement only. Therefore, he who does not do actions at all for the sake of Allāh has not practiced the religion for Allāh, and he who does not practice the religion for Him is a disbeliever.”

As for the hadith that states:

54 Majmū' al-Fatāwā (7/1616)
55 Majmū' al-Fatāwā (7/188)
56 Majmū' al-Fatāwā (7/553)
Some people will enter Paradise without having done any good at all.\textsuperscript{57}

Along with his statement:

\begin{equation}
\text{إن الجنة لا يدخلها إلا نفس مؤمنة.}
\end{equation}

Indeed, Paradise is such that no one will enter it except a believing soul.\textsuperscript{58}

This is what the Murji'ah cling to, yet they have no evidence in these narrations, because it is understood that the lack of doing any good actions is in reference to the outward actions, and it is not conceivable from this that they did no actions with the heart, from sincerity, certainty, truthfulness, and fear of Allāh, and they were prevented from doing actions due to ignorance or some other permissible excuse. This is because the absence of actions while one has the ability to perform them, having no excuse (for not performing them), negates \textit{imān}, as has been established.

Therefore, that which is ambiguous cannot be used as evidence against that which is clear and decisive, except by one who has an illness in his heart. This is because the origin is that the unclear is to be referred back to that which is clear, and what is clear here is that \textit{imān} is statement and action. Therefore, if a narration comes indicating that there was no action whatsoever for an individual but he was considered a believer, then this is interpreted to mean that he did not have outward actions or he did not have the ability to perform actions due to ignorance or an excuse from the legislative types of excuses, and Allāh knows best.

\textsuperscript{57} Reported by al-Bukhāri (#6204) from the \textit{ḥadīth} of Abū Hurayrah ﷺ.

\textsuperscript{58} Reported by at-Ṭabarānī in \textit{Al-Mu'jam al-Kabir} (#581). Graded \textit{sahīh} by al-Albānī in \textit{Al-Jāmi' as-Saghir} (#89)
And he who abandons the prayer has disbelieved. There is no action concerning which the one who abandons it has become a disbeliever except the prayer. He who abandons it is a disbeliever, and Allāh has made it permissible to execute him.

**Explanation**

I say: This is due to the greatness of its affair, and the fact that it is the practical application of the religion of Islām. Many narrations have come regarding this, establishing that the abandonment of the prayer is disbelief and that there is no action in Islām of which the abandonment is disbelief except the prayer.

It is authentically reported from ‘Umar bin al-Khaṭṭāb ﷺ that he said, “There is no portion of Islām for the one who abandons the prayer.”٥٩ Similarly, that which is reported on the authority of Jābir bin ‘Abdillāh ﷺ that Mujāhid said to him, “What separated disbelief and īmān from the actions during the time of the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ?” He said, “The prayer.”

Likewise, the Prophet ﷺ mentioned:

\[
\text{بين الرجل وبين الشرك والكفر ترك الصلاة.}
\]

That which lies between a man and shirk and disbelief is the abandonment of the prayer.٦٠

٥٩ Reported by Imām Mālik in Al-Muwatta’ (#84).

٦٠ Reported by Muslim (#82), from the hadith of Jābir bin ‘Abdillāh ﷺ.
And the best of this ummah after its Prophet is Abū Bakr as-Ṣiddiq, then ‘Umar bin al-Khattāb, then ‘Uthmān bin ‘Affān. We give these three precedence just as the Companions of the Messenger of Allāh ∥ gave them precedence, and none of them differed in that. Then after these three come the five Companions of the shura, and they are: ‘Ali bin Abī Ṭalib, Ṭalḥah, az-Zubayr, ‘Abdur-Rahmān bin ‘Awf, and Sa’d. All of them were fit for the khilāfah and each of them was an Imām. And in regard to this, we utilize the hadith of Ibn ‘Umar in which he said, “We used to consider, while the Messenger of Allāh ∥ was alive and his Companions were widespread, that Abū Bakr, then
'Umar, then 'Uthmān were the best of the people, and then we would remain silent thereafter.'

And then after the Companions of the shūrā come the people of Badr from the Muhājirūn, and then the people of Badr from the Anṣār; from among the Companions of the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ [each one's rank is] according to his hijrah and precedence [in religion].

And then the best of the people after these are the Companions of the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ in general, the generation in which he was sent. Everyone who accompanied him, whether for a year, a month, a day, an hour, or who saw him, then he is from his Companions. His Companionship is in proportion to how long he accompanied him, and precedence is given to those who preceded in accompanying him and who heard from him and looked at him.

And the least of them in Companionship is better than the generations that have not seen him, even if they met Allāh with all the good actions. They were those who accompanied the Prophet ﷺ and saw him and heard from him; and those who saw him with their eyes and believed in him, even if they only accompanied him for an hour, are better, due to this companionship with the Prophet, than the Tābi‘īn, even if they were to perform all acts of righteousness.

**EXPLANATION**

I say: The Companions ﷺ are the best of mankind after the prophets and messengers, may Allāh’s pleasure and peace be upon all of them. Many verses and ahādīth have come regarding their virtues, praising them in general as well as in detail. The ‘aqidah of Ahlus-Sunnah wal-Jamā‘ah is that we supplicate for Allāh’s pleasure upon them all, without exception. And this is a matter of consensus among Ahlus-Sunnah wal-Jamā‘ah.

The Companion in general is he who met the Prophet ﷺ, believed in him, and died upon that [belief].

We withhold from speaking about what occurred between them from
differences, and we do not delve deep into it, for all of them were mujtahidūn and each of them shall have a reward due to the truthfulness of their īmān and their good intention in seeking to aid their religion, the one who was mistaken from among them as well as the one who was correct. And desires and doubts did not overtake them. Desires and doubts overtook those who came after them.

As for them, Allāh ﷺ commended them with His statement:

(رضي الله عنهم ورضيوا عنهم)

Allāh is pleased with them and they with Him.

[Sūrah al-Mā'idah 5:119]

Likewise, there is what was mentioned by the chief of mankind regarding them, especially the hadith in the Sahihayn in which he ﷺ said:

لا تسبوا أصحابي، فلَوْ أن أحدكم أفقف مثل أحدهم ذهباً ما بلغ مَعَ أحدِهِمْ
وَلَا نصبته.

Do not revile my Companions, for by He in whose Hands is my soul, if one of you were to spend gold equal to Mount Uhud in charity, it would not equal a handful spent by one of them, not even half of that.⁶¹

Therefore, the Companions ﷺ are such that none loves them except a believer and none hates them and reviles them except a hypocrite whose hypocrisy is well known, even if he claims Islām, prays, and fasts, such as the Rāfiḍah and those of their ilk. May Allāh give them what they deserve. From Allāh’s abandonment of them is that they revile and belittle the best of the Companions.

The best of the Companions after the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ without any dispute is Abū Bakr as-Ṣiddiq, the second of the two who were in the cave, and he was [the Prophet’s] beloved friend and close

⁶¹ Reported by al-Bukhāri (#3673) and Muslim (#254).
Companion in the dunyā and the hereafter.

Then comes ‘Umar al-Faruq ✝️, for Islām spread greatly during his time. He conquered the land of Khosrow, and Caesar was swamped during his era.

Then comes ‘Uthmān, Dhun-Nurayn (the Possessor of the Two Lights), the rightly-guided and righteous khalifah who was a martyr, for the Messenger ✝️ attested to martyrdom for him. During his time, the Jew Ibn Saba’ appeared and incited the movement against ‘Uthmān until [‘Uthmān] was killed while being patient, anticipating the reward from Allāh ✝️.

Similarly, the people of knowledge are united upon this. Imām Aḥmad cited the narration of Ibn ‘Umar ✝️ in Sahih al-Bukhāri in which he said, “During the time of the Messenger ✝️, we did not deem anyone to be equivalent to Abū Bakr, then ‘Umar, then ‘Uthmān, and we would remain quiet thereafter regarding the Companions of the Messenger of Allāh ✝️, and we would not make distinctions between them.”

Then Imām Aḥmad ✝️ mentioned the Companions of the shūrā and those whom the Messenger ✝️ was pleased with when he died.

Then next in virtue come the people of Badr from the Muhājirūn and the Anṣār. Then come the Companions of the Ridwān pledge, concerning whom it is authentically reported that the Prophet ✝️ said:

لا يلق النار أحد بايع تحت الشجرة.

No one who pledged allegiance under the tree will enter the Fire.

And this was revealed in the statement of Allāh the Exalted wherein he said:

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62 Reported by al-Bukhāri (#3697).
63 Reported by at-Tirmidhi (3860) from the hadith of Jābir bin ‘Abdillāh ✝️.
Verily, those who give the pledge to you (O Muhammad ﷺ), they are giving the pledge to Allāh. The Hand of Allāh is over their hands.

[Sūrah al-Fath 48:10]

And then come the rest of the Companions in terms of their virtue. Imām ʿAbd al-Raḥmān b. ʿAbd Allāh b. ʿAbd al-Muṭṭalib mentioned those who saw him and accompanied him, even if it was only for an hour.
And to hear and obey the Imāms and the leader of the Muslims, whether he be righteous or wicked, and he who takes responsibility of the khilāfah and upon whom the Muslims are united and pleased with, as well as he who seizes control over them by way of the sword until he becomes the khalīfah and is referred to as the chief of the believers.

EXPLANATION

This is a great principle and tremendous fundamental from the fundamentals of Ahlus-Sunnah wal-Jamā’ah as it relates to the obligation of hearing and obeying. [This is] obedience to Allāh, obedience to His Messenger, and obedience to the leader of the Muslims — the leader of the Muslims in any land from the lands of Allāh, and they are the scholars as well as the Muslim leaders, even if one of them is an Abyssinian slave. We do so out of imān in Allāh and adherence to the command of His Messenger ﷺ, since he has commanded us with that. Likewise, we give sincere advice to them and we do not rebel against them.

Hearing and obeying is in what is good and does not contain evil, as has come in the authentic narration:

إِنَما الطَّاعَةُ فِي الْمَعْرُوفِ

Obedience is only in what is good.64

64 Reported by al-Bukhārī (#7257) from the hadīth of ‘Ali bin Abi Ṭalīb ﷺ. 
Therefore, he whose leadership is affirmed and the affair is given to him—and this is confirmed by the people of influence, whether it is their choice, by way of contract, or by him forcefully seeking control over them—it is obligatory to hear and obey him, and to enter what the people of knowledge and influence have entered into, and to not rebel and separate. Indeed, all separation is evil, as is affirmed by Ibn Mas‘ūd.

Many verses, *ahādīth*, and narrations from the Salaf have come regarding this issue; meaning, the obligation of hearing and obeying the ruler. I will mention some of them, by Allāh’s permission, as a reminder to the one who has a heart and the one who will listen and bear witness.

Allāh the Exalted has said:

\[
\text{يَا أَيُّهَا الْذِّينَ أَطَعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطَعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأَوْلَيْ الْأًمْرِ مِنكُمْ}
\]

O you who believe! Obey Allāh and obey the Messenger (Muḥammad ﷺ), and those of you (Muslims) who are in authority.

*[Surah an-Nisā’ 4:59]*

Likewise, the Messenger ﷺ said:

\[
\text{مِن يَطَعُ الْأَمْرَ اَلْآمِرِ فَقَدْ أَطَاعُنِي وَمَنْ أَطَاعُنِي فَقَدْ أَطَاعَ اللَّهَ}
\]

He who obeys the ruler has obeyed me, and he who obeys me has obeyed Allāh. He who disobeys the ruler has disobeyed me, and he who disobeys me has disobeyed Allāh.

65 Translator’s Note: I was not able to find a reference for this exact wording used by the Shaykh. However, I found many similar wordings in the authentic books, from them:

\[
\text{مِن أَطَاعِي فَقَدْ أَطَاعَ اللَّهَ وَمِنْ عَصَانِي فَقَدْ عَصَى اللَّهَ وَمِنْ يَطَعُ الْآمِرِ فَقَدْ أَطَاعَني}
\]

\[
\text{وَمِنْ يَعْصَى الْآمِرِ فَقَدْ عَصَى عَصَانِي}
\]
He also mentioned in the well-known, authentic hadith of 'Irbād bin Sāriyah:

أوصيكم بتقوى الله، والسمع والطاعة، وإن تأمر عليكم عبد حبشي.

I advise you to have taqwā of Allāh, and to hear and obey even if an Abyssinian slave is appointed as a ruler over you.⁶⁶

Imām Ibn Rajab ١٢٩ mentioned in his exemplary book Jāmi‘ al-‘Ulūm wal-Ḥikam, in explanation of this hadith:

“These two statements together comprise happiness in the dunyā and the hereafter. As for the taqwā of Allāh, then this contains happiness in the hereafter for the one who clings to it. As for hearing and obeying the rulers of the Muslims, then this contains happiness in the dunyā, and by way of it, the beneficial affairs in the servant’s life are set in order, and by way of it, they are able to seek help regarding the affairs of their religion in obedience to their Lord. As ‘Alī bin Abī Tālib ١٢٩ said, ‘Indeed, the people are such that nothing will rectify them except an Imām, be he righteous or wicked. If he is wicked, then the believer worships his Lord (by being patient).’

“Likewise, the Prophet ١٠ commanded with these two principles in his sermon during the Farewell Pilgrimage, as is reported by Imām Aḥmad ١٢ and at-Tirmidhi from the narration of Ummul-Huṣayn al-‘Aḥmāsiyyah in which she said, ‘I heard the Messenger of Allāh ١٠ deliver a sermon during his Farewell Pilgrimage, and I heard him saying:

يا أيها الناس، اتقوا الله، وإن أمر عليكم عبد حبشي مجدع، فاسمعوا له وأطيعوا ما أقام فيكم كتاب الله.

He who obeys me has obeyed Allāh, and he who disobeys me has disobeyed Allāh; and he who obeys the ruler has obeyed me, and he who disobeys the ruler has disobeyed me.

(Reported by al-Bukhārī [#2797])

“O people, have taqwā of Allāh; even if an Abyssinian slave whose head is like a raisin is appointed as leader over you, hear and obey as long as they establish the Book of Allāh among you.”67

“And Muslim reported from him the mention of hearing and obeying as well.”68

Included in hearing and obeying them is not reviling, belittling, or mocking them. Nor should one rebel against them with his tongue, his speech, riots, or whatever resembles that, from those who speak against him on the pulpits and other than that. The principle regarding them is that we must supplicate, if they are righteous, for Allāh to increase them in righteousness, and if they are sinners, for Allāh to overlook them, guide them, and rectify their affairs. And for Allāh to make them excellent in their leadership and rectify their advisors.

The Salaf used to desire that if a supplication of theirs was to be answered, it would be [their supplication] for the rulers, because the ummah is rectified by way of their rectification. Anas bin Mālik  said, “Our seniors from the Companions of the Prophet  prohibited us by saying, ‘Do not revile your leaders and don’t be deceptive towards them, and don’t hate them. Have taqwā of Allāh and be patient, for indeed, the affair is near.’”

It’s reported on the authority of Usāmah bin Zayd that it was said to him, “Will you not enter upon ‘Uthmān and speak with him?” He said, “Do you think I have not spoken to him [just because] I have not made you hear it? By Allāh, I have spoken to him in private without opening an affair which is not praiseworthy that I should be the first to open.”69

In the hadith of Ḥudhayfah, [Ḥudhayfah] said, “The Messenger of Allāh  said:

67 Reported by at-Tirmidhi (#1706).
68 Jāmi‘al-‘Ulūm wal-Ḥikam (p. 492).
69 Reported by al-Bukhāri (#3269) and Muslim (#2989).
“You will hear and obey your leader even if your back is beaten and your wealth is taken; hear and obey.”  

It’s reported on the authority of Suwayd bin Ghafalah that he said, “‘Umar bin al-Khaṭṭāb said to me, ‘Perhaps you will live after me. Therefore, hear and obey the Imām even if he is an Abyssinian slave, even if he beats your back. Be patient even if he deprives you, be patient. And if calls you to some affair that diminishes your dunyā, then say, “I hear and I will obey; my blood and not my religion.”’”

I say: This is the path of the Salaf . They deemed it obligatory to hear and obey the rulers even if they were oppressors. One must obey them in what is good and not what is evil, adhering to the command of Allāh, and the command of His Messenger when he said:

إِنَّ ال طَّاعَةُ فِي السَّعُورِ .

Indeed, obedience is only in what is good.

This is in opposition to the Khawārij and the Mu’tazilah, the proponents of fitnah, may Allāh fight them. They deem it permissible to rebel against the rulers and thus declare blood and fitnah to be permissible. And how much fitnah, killing, fighting, and absence of patience have these Khawārij brought about?! They harm Islām and the Muslims, and they corrupt instead of rectifying.

The Imām al-Ḥāfīz Ibn Hajar mentioned in Al-Fath (13/9): “Ibn Baṭṭah said, ‘In the hadith lies evidence for the absence of rebelling against the rulers, even if they are oppressors. The jurists are united upon the obligation of hearing and obeying the leader and making jihād along with him.’”

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70 Reported by Muslim (#1847).
71 Reported by Ibn Abi Shaybah in Al-Musannaf (6/544), as well as by al-Khallaī in As-Sunnah (1/111) and al-Ājurri in Ash-Shari’ah (#70).
72 Reported by al-Bukhārī (#6826) from the hadith of ‘Ali .
73 Fath al-Bārī (13/9)
Likewise, participating in battles along with the rulers is binding until the Day of Judgment, whether they be righteous or wicked, and it is not to be abandoned.

**Explanation**

I say: Participating in battles refers to *jihād* if the ruler calls for it. And *jihād* is such that its virtue is well known. The Prophet ﷺ said that it is the apex of the affair of Islam.

*Jihād* is of two types:

1) Defensive *jihād*

2) Offensive *jihād*

What is apparent is that what is intended here is the offensive *jihād*. As for the defensive *jihād*, then it is obligatory upon every individual. If the enemy attacks the land, everyone must defend themselves. Even the woman must defend herself and her honor.

Similarly, if robbers were to attack a person, then he may defend himself if he is able and with whatever means he has at his disposal, as shall come (if Allāh wills) in the section that deals with fighting against highway robbers; and Allāh knows best.
And the division of the war booty and the establishment of the prescribed punishments being the responsibility of the rulers is continuously binding.

**EXPLANATION**

I say: This is also a principle from the principles of Ahlus-Sunnah wal-Jamā‘ah. The prescribed punishments are such that no one can establish them except the ruler, and the affair is to be taken to him in order to preserve lives, unify the word of the Muslims, and out of obedience to Allāh, as well as to oppose the innovators from the Khawārij, who are the dogs of the Hellfire. And all praise is for Allāh, the affair is clear to the believer.
It is not for anyone to revile them or dispute with them.

**Explanation**

I say: This is due to what this contains from *fitan*, evil, sins, corruption, and chaos, the full extent of which is not known by any except Allāh. Regarding this blessed nation, the nation of *at-tawhid*, the nation of the family of Sa‘ūd, Shaykh Ibn Bāz mentioned, “And this nation, all praise is to Allāh, is such that nothing emanates from it that obligates rebellion against it. None deems it permissible to rebel against the government except the Khawārij, who declare Muslims to be disbelievers due to sins.”

He also mentioned, “If the rulers were to command with disobedience, then they are not to be obeyed in disobedience, but it is not permissible to rebel against them due to it.”

He also mentioned, “This indicates that it is not permissible to dispute with the rulers or to rebel against them, except those from whom you see clear disbelief, in which case you will have an evidence from Allāh.”

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74 *Majmū‘ al-Fatāwā* (41/91)  
75 *Majmū‘ al-Fatāwā* (8/203)  
76 *Majmū‘ al-Fatāwā* (8/203)
And the *sadaqah* is to be given to them; and this is permissible and binding. He who gives it to them has fulfilled his obligation, whether they are righteous or wicked.

**EXPLANATION**

I say: The term *sadaqah* here refers to the obligatory *zakāh*. The Muslim is to give this to the appointed ruler of the land in which he lives and upon whom the people are united; meaning, the people of authority and influence. And this removes the obligation from him and frees him from blame, and this has exonerated him before Allāh, the Majestic and High, whether that ruler is righteous or wicked, a sinner or one who is obedient. This does not harm the one who has paid the *zakāh* at all before Allāh, as is reported in the narration:

*عليهم ما حملوا وعلىكم ما حملتم.*

For them is what they bear and upon you is what you bear.\(^77\)

For indeed, Allāh will ask each individual concerning what he has done.

\(^{77}\) Reported by Muslim from the *hadith* of Wā’il bin Hujr (#1846).
And praying the Jumu‘ah prayer behind him or behind the one he appoints is sound and complete, as being two *raka‘āt*. The one who repeats them is an innovator who has abandoned the narrations and opposed the Sunnah. He has no portion of the Jumu‘ah prayer if he does not see prayer behind the Imāms, whether they are righteous or wicked, (to be correct). The Sunnah is that one prays two *raka‘āt* with them and that he worships Allāh with the belief that they are sound, and there is nothing from doubt in his heart regarding this.

**EXPLANATION**

I say: The prayer is the greatest pillar of Islām after the two testimonies, and there is no portion of Islām for the one who abandons it. Due to its great status, it was made obligatory in the heavens on the night of al-Isrā’. From Allāh’s bounty upon the believers is that He has obligated the congregational prayer to be established in His houses (i.e., the *masājid*) in His expansive land.

Allāh has said:

> يَا عِبَادِي الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِنَّ أَرْضَيْنِ وَإِسْبَعَةُ فَإِبَّأَيَّ فَاعْبُدُونَ

O My slaves who believe! Certainly, spacious is My
And He has specified Jumu‘ah with increased virtue. It is the best of the days of the week and Ādām was created on it, the Hour shall be established on it, and there is an hour of response (a time wherein supplications are surely answered) on it.

Jumu‘ah prayer is obligatory as two raka‘at along with the khutbah as a reminder and admonition. The heedless hearts are reminded and the sleeping minds are awakened to what Allāh loves and what Allāh hates. The Imām delivers the sermon and prays the prayer, either (leading it) himself or one whom he appoints. The Muslims gather for it in the lands in which they reside.

He who establishes it has established the religion, and he who squanders it has squandered his religion. Therefore, establishing it with the Imām of the Muslims and their general population is from the greatest of the signposts of Islam and its pillars.

The Shaytān has played with the people; those whom he has led astray in the life of this world while they think they are doing good, from the deviant groups, do not see Jumu‘ah and the congregational prayers with the oppressive ruler to be binding. [This is because] they deem [this ruler] to be a disbeliever, and thus they have gone astray and led others astray. Due to this, Imām Aḥmad mentioned this principle, and it is agreed upon among Ahlus-Sunnah, the people of Islām, that it is obligatory to attend the Jumu‘ah prayer as well as the congregational prayer behind the rulers, even if they are oppressive and have sins and disobedience with them; this does not prevent the prayer behind them. Upon them (the rulers) is their oppression and their sin, whereas the prayer is for us and for them.

Likewise, Ahlus-Sunnah does not see it permissible to repeat the prayer after having prayed it with them. Indeed, this is an innovation that the extremists from those who are rigid have invented, although they are lighter (in their deviation) than the aforementioned group. However, they are upon error and misguidance. Due to this, Imām
Ahmad mentioned this, and he also stated that there should not be any worry or hesitation in your heart regarding the correctness of the prayer behind them (i.e., the sinful rulers), and Allāh knows best.
The one who rebels against a ruler from among the rulers of the Muslims while the people are united upon him and affirm his leadership by whatever means he attained it, whether they were pleased with him or he overpowered them, then this rebel has divided the Muslims and opposed the narrations from the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ. And if this rebel dies upon this, then he has died the death of the Pre-Islamic Days of Ignorance. And it is not permissible to fight against the ruler or for anyone from the people to rebel against him. He who does this is an innovator who is not upon the Sunnah and the correct path.

**Explanation**

I say: This is the issue of rebellion against the oppressive rulers; and all praise is due to Allâh, it is something upon which there is consensus among the people of knowledge up to this day of ours—after seeing the great corruption brought about by those who rebelled wanting to change an evil, and who ended up bringing forth a greater evil and a worse form of corruption, in addition to disobeying the Messenger ﷺ in his command to have patience regarding the wicked rulers and their oppression until we meet [the Messenger] at his fountain. And we ask Allâh to give us refuge from tribulations, what is apparent from them and what is hidden.

I say: The rulers are of four categories:
1) The just Muslim ruler.

2) The oppressive Muslim ruler.

3) The disbelieving but just ruler.

4) The oppressive disbelieving ruler.

The first is the just Muslim ruler; this is the desired ruler, and they are few. There is no difference of opinion concerning the impermissibility of rebelling against him.

The second is the oppressive Muslim ruler; likewise, what is correct is that it is impermissible to rebel against him as long as the prayer is established, Allah is worshiped, and one does not see from him clear disbelief of which one would have decisive evidence. The oppression of the oppressor is upon him; he bears what is upon him, and we will bear what is upon us. And its removal is near; it is not perpetual, as Imam al-Hasan al-Basri said when they complained to him regarding the oppression of al-Hajjaj. And al-Hajjaj, as well as other than al-Hajjaj from the oppressive rulers, was removed; and with Allah all disputes are settled.

Many narrations have come in the authentic books and the Masānid containing advice from the noble Messenger and truthful advisor and commanding with patience regarding the oppression of the rulers, and patience is not needed except in times of calamity and transgression. Therefore, he commanded us with patience, and this is from the completeness of his sincerity and diligence for the safety of his ummah from tribulations and from being destroyed by one another, although this is something that occurs. The Prophet was informed of certain affairs from the unseen that Allah made him privy to, and thus he advised his ummah so they would not fall into them. And patience is not needed except with oppression. And Allah is authoritative over His affair, but most of the people do not know; and none deviates (from the path of) Allah except one who is destroyed.

As for the disbelieving ruler, in his two types—there is no rulership
for the disbeliever over the Muslim, wherever he may be. However, the just disbeliever is lighter and less harmful than the oppressive disbeliever, and rebellion against him and his removal is contingent upon one being able to do so in a way that causes less corruption; otherwise, one is to be patient and act towards rectification until he has the ability and the capacity to remove him. The Messenger exemplified this during the Makkah period, during which he displayed patience while he saw idols being worshipped at the Ka'bah and did not have the ability to break one idol. There was nothing for him to do except call to tawhid, clarify shirk, clarify iman in Allah and His greatness, and to make clear what Allah loves and what Allah hates.

This principle (i.e., the impermissibility of rebellion against the ruler) is such that the understanding of it today in many people's hearts has weakened, especially with the abundance of ignorance and angry groups. The people of innovations, desires, and whims have become prevalent, as have the schemes of Islam's enemies, by way of beautifying revolutions and rebellion against the oppressive rulers with the claim that they wish to change evil. Thus, they have fallen into a greater evil by shedding blood, transgressing against honor, and squandering wealth.

Therefore, corruption and murder have become abundant between the Muslims, some of them killing the others, and this is the haraj (killing) that the Prophet informed us of. They camouflage themselves with the Book of Allah and the study of the Sunnah of the Messenger of Allah, and indeed we belong to Allah and to Him we shall return. He is our Reckoner and He is the best disposer of affairs.

The Shaytan has beautified their actions for them and has thus hindered them from the path of Allah, so he is their wali today. He has come to them in the manner of an evil plotter calling for change in this life among the slaves, and change is inevitable. However, they have changed to that which is more evil, as opposed to changing to that which is better, for revolutions and uprisings, as well as Muslims carrying weapons against one another, has been beautified for them. The Messenger said:
He who carries weapons against us is not from us.\(^7\)

They have been ungrateful for Allah's favors, and surely Allah's statement is true wherein He said:

\[
\text{إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُعَظِّمُ مَا يَقْوُمُ حَتَّى يُعَظِّمُوا مَا يَأْفِينَهُمْ}
\]

Verily! Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change themselves.

[Sūrah ar-Ra'd 13:11]

This is the same whether it be good or evil. Uprisings, unrest, and chaos have not occurred in the Muslim lands except due to that, and due to not understanding the legislative objectives, and not comprehending the concept of weighing the benefits and harms. Therefore, they have done actions that no one with sound intellect would be pleased with, much less the Muslim; and indeed, we belong to Allah and to Him we shall return.

Muṣṭafā ḥ has explained these affairs to us, and this is from the completeness of his sincerity to us. He clarified that it is impermissible to rebel against the rulers even if they are oppressive sinners, as long as they establish the prayer and we do not see from them clear disbelief concerning which we would have a proof from Allah. And along with this, it is a must that we have the ability to remove this disbelief with something less harmful. And Allah's aid is sought.

\(^7\) Reported by al-Bukhāri (\#6659) from the hadith of 'Abdullāh bin 'Umar Ḥ. 

144
And fighting against robbers and rebels is permissible if they attack a man, in regard to his self or his wealth. It is permissible for him to fight in order to defend himself and his property, and he may defend it with everything he has at his disposal. And if they leave him be or flee from him, it is not permissible for him to pursue them or chase after them. This is not for anyone except the Imam or the rulers of the Muslims [to do].

He may only defend himself at that present time, and he should intend in this struggle not to kill anyone. However, if he were to kill him while defending himself in this struggle, then Allah will distance the one who was killed (from his mercy). And if he is killed in this state while defending himself and his property, then I hope he will be considered a martyr, as has come in the narrations.

And (in) all the narrations regarding this, one is only commanded to fight them, and he is not commanded to kill them or pursue them. Nor should he finish him off if he falls to the ground and becomes wounded. And if he were to take him prisoner, then it is not for him
to execute him, nor should he establish the prescribed punishment against him. However, he is to raise the affair to the one Allah has made the ruler, so he may judge regarding this affair.

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EXPLANATION

I say: "The robbers" here refers to the thieves. Included among them are the marauders and those who cut off the pathways in ignorance and falsehood; those who transgress against the servants of Allah regarding their wealth, their honor, and their blood. It is permissible for the Muslim, if they were to attack him, to defend himself and his property with the least amount of force possible; firstly by way of a statement and a reminder, and by fleeing from them, and by way of admonishment and threatening. If they refuse all but evil, then one may raise his stick and ward them off with it. And if they will not be repelled by anything other than weapons, then he may brandish his weapon.

The origin is that one should not brandish his weapon against the Muslim. It is authentically reported from the Prophet ﷺ that he said:

من حمل علينا السلاح فليس منا.

He who carries weapons against us is not from us.79

If he is killed defending himself, his property, and his honor, then he is a martyr, as Imám Āḥmad رضي الله عنه has mentioned: "I hope he will be considered a martyr."

Many narrations have come indicating this, such as what is in the Sahihayn from his statement:

من قتل دون ماله فهو شهيد.

He who is killed defending his property is a martyr.80

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79 Reported by al-Bukhārī (#6659) from the hadith of Ṭabdullāh bin Ṭumar رضي الله عنه.
80 Reported by at-Tirmidhi (#1418) from the hadith of Sa`īd bin Zayd, graded sahīḥ by
And he who kills these oppressive evildoers while defending himself, then they (the robbers) shall be removed from Allāh’s mercy, as Imām Ahmad has said. This is a supplication against them. It has come in the hadīth that he said he shall be in the Fire (meaning, the one who was killed).

Likewise, if they were to enter his home, then he may defend against them and expel them from it. And if they flee from him and leave him be and separate themselves from him, he is not to chase or pursue them. It is for the ruler to pursue them, along with his aids, and he may detain and punish them. Perhaps he will beat them and establish Allāh’s legislation upon them because they cause corruption, and Allāh, the Majestic and High, has said:

\[
\text{The recompense of those who wage war against Allāh and His Messenger and do mischief in the land is only that they shall be killed or crucified or have their hands and feet cut off on the opposite sides, or be exiled from the land.} \\
\text{[Surah al-Mā’idah 5:33]} 
\]

The Imām is to implement that which, in his view, is safer for the people in regard to their persons, their property, and their honor. And this defense of one’s self from the robbers who attack him is with the intention not to kill him. He is only defending himself and repelling them from him. But if [the attacker] dies or he kills them, then there is nothing due upon the one who defended himself. He is exempt from the blood that he shed.

Likewise, if he injures or breaks something, then there is nothing due upon him. The treatment is the ruler’s responsibility, and this is so he

al-Albānī in 
Sahih al-Jāmi’ (#6444).
may establish Allâh's legislation regarding the transgressor; and Allâh knows best.
And we do not testify for anyone from the people of the qiblah that he is in Paradise or the Fire due to an action of his. We hope for the one who is righteous and we fear for him; and we fear for the sinner, yet we have hope in Allāh's mercy for him.

**Explanation**

This is also a principle from the principles of Ahlus-Sunnah: not testifying that anyone is in Paradise or the Fire, except those for whom the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ has testified and informed us of, such as the ten promised Paradise by the Messenger ﷺ and other than them, like Thābit bin Qays bin Shammas, as well as 'Ukāshah. Likewise for the Fire—we do not attest for that with certainty for anyone. All of this is in relation to a specific individual. As for in general, the believers are the people of Paradise and its residents. Paradise is prepared for them. Whereas the disbelievers are people of the Fire and its residents, and it is prepared for them. Allāh does what He wills, as Allāh has said:

> إِنَّ رَبّكَ فَقَالَ لَمْ تَرِيدَ

**Verily, your Lord is the doer of what He wills.**

[Sūrah Hūd 11:107]

And all of His actions are just and merciful, and your Lord has not wronged anyone, and to Him is the return. And for Allāh is the affair, firstly and lastly. However, in this life, we are now in the abode of
action, and it is that in which there is no good for us except through servitude to Allah and making the actions for Him, the King of everything, and being humble for His sake, consulting Him and supplicating to Him.

In this life that we live in now, it is obligatory upon us to live our lives in accordance to what our Lord, Glorified be He, loves, and to live our lives in the worship of Him, in servitude to Him alone, there being no partners for Him. And [this is by] hearing and obeying Him, actualizing His tawhid, magnifying Him, and honoring His commands and His prohibitions, as well as ruling among and upon the slaves of Allah by what Allah has legislated and commanded.

Allah has said:

\[
\text{أنَّ أَقِيمُوا الْدِّينَ وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا فِيهِ كَيْبَرُ عَلَى الْمُشْرِكِينَ}
\]

You should establish the religion and make no divisions in it. Intolerable for the polytheists is that to which you (O Muhammad) call them.

[Sūrah ash-Shūrā 42:13]

The establishment of the religion is by raising its signposts, which are the tawhid of Allah, the worship of Him, and the establishment of His legislation on the earth and among His servants.

Allah has said:

\[
\text{إِنَّ الْأَرْضَ لِلَّهِ}
\]

"Verily, the earth is Allah's."

[Sūrah al-'A'rāf 7:128]

This is from praying for His sake, fasting for His sake, paying zakāh for His sake, making Hajj for His sake, commanding the good, forbidding the evil, fearing Him, turning to Him in repentance,
being truthful, fulfilling trusts, and everything Allāh has commanded with. Also, abandoning everything Allāh has prohibited, joining the ties of the womb, excellence towards near relatives and orphans as well as the indigent, and other than this from acts of righteousness and goodness from what is in the human being’s natural disposition. We should also refrain from harming others.

[Verily, Allah enjoins justice and goodness, and giving (help) to kith and kin, and forbids lewdness, evil, and oppression. He admonishes you, that you may take heed.]

[Sūrah an-Nahl 16:90]

We must also rule by what Allāh has legislated, in the entirety of the life of the slave of Allāh. All of this is obligatory upon the people, and Allāh knows best.

Allāh has said:

[Verily! Those who believe and those who are Jews and Christians, and Sabians, whoever believes in Allāh and the Last Day and does righteous good deeds, shall have their reward with their Lord; on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve.]

[Sūrah al-Baqarah 2:62]

Therefore, he who believes in Allāh, actualizing iyun, and believes in the Last Day, the Day of recompense and reward, and he acts for that Day by doing righteous deeds and avoiding evil deeds, then Allāh
will not allow his reward to be lost. This is from the completeness of His justice upon His believing servants. This is a tremendous glad tiding for every believer who is truthful in his imān.
He who meets Allah with a sin that would obligate the Fire for him, but he is repentant and not persistent upon it, indeed Allah will accept his repentance, and He will forgive His slaves and pardon their sins. He who meets Allah after having the prescribed punishment implemented upon him for that sin in the *dunya*, then it is an expiation for him, as has come in the narration from the Messenger of Allah %. And he who meets Allah being persistent upon his sin and not repentant from the sins that obligate punishment, then his affair is with Allah. If He wills, He will punish him, and if He wills, He will forgive him. He who meets Allah as a disbeliever, Allah will punish him and not forgive him.

EXPLANATION

All of the servants are commanded with the obedience of Allah, their Creator, their Provider, the One who gives them life and will cause them to die. They are likewise prohibited from disobeying Him. Sins and disobedience obligate the Fire and distance from Allah, just as acts of obedience obligate Paradise and nearness to Allah, the King, the Exalted.

Therefore, he who is overwhelmed by sins and destructive deeds and he meets Allah, the Majestic and High, while being from the people
of tawhid, then one of two affairs applies to him:

1) He has repented from them, and thus he will have hope for Allah's forgiveness, for Allah has named Himself at-Tawwab (the One who accepts repentance) and al-Ghaffar (the All-Forgiving). Therefore, this repentant individual has hope for Allah's forgiveness and mercy, and (hope) that Allah will not punish him. And all sins less than shirk are subject to be forgiven, even if an individual dies upon them without repenting, for they are under the will of Allah. As for shirk, if the person were to die upon it without repenting from it, then he will not be forgiven, for Allah has said:

\[\text{Verily, Allah forgives not that partners should be set up with him in worship, but He forgives except that (anything else) to whom He pleases.} \]

[Sūrah an-Nisā' 4:48]

Allah has likewise said:

\[\text{Verily, whoever sets up partners in worship with Allah, then Allah has forbidden Paradise for him, and the Fire will be his abode. And for the wrongdoers there are no helpers.} \]

[Sūrah al-Mā‘idah 5:72]

It is authentically reported from the Prophet ﷺ that he said:

\[\text{من لقي الله لا يشرك به شيئاً دخل الجنة ومن لقيه وهو يشرك به شيئاً دخل النار.}\]
He who meets Allâh not associating anything in worship with Him will enter Paradise. And he who meets Allâh associating something with Him in worship will enter the Fire.81

Therefore, *shirk* is different from all other sins, and it is obligatory upon the believer who has sound intellect to be afraid of it and to be cautious of it. This is because all sins, such as fornication, the consumption of intoxicants, murder, and other than these from the major sins, are under the will of Allâh, the Majestic and High. If Allâh wills, He will punish for them, and if He wills, He will forgive them. However, *shirk* will not be forgiven (for the one who dies upon it), and Allâh knows best.

Moreover, some sins have prescribed punishments in the *dunyâ* and some of them do not have prescribed punishments. He who commits a sin and has the prescribed punishment applied to him in the *dunyâ*, and he is repentant along with the establishment of the prescribed punishment, then the prescribed punishment will be an expiation for him, if Allâh wills. And if the prescribed punishment is applied to him but he is not repentant from the sin, then it is as if he has persisted upon that sin.

Similarly, in the hereafter, his affair is with Allâh. If Allâh wills, He will punish him, and if He wills, He will forgive him. As for in the *dunyâ*, then the establishment of the prescribed punishment upon him is a means of rebuke for him and for other than him. Therefore, at times the prescribed punishments are an expiation, and at other times they are a means of rebuke. And Allâh knows best.

2) He who meets Allâh not being repentant for his sin—whether the prescribed punishment is meted out to him or not—then his affair is with Allâh. If He wills, then He will punish him, and if He wills, He will forgive him.

All of this is regarding the monotheistic Muslim. As for the *mushrik*, then Allâh said concerning him:

81 Reported by Muslim (#93) from the hadîth of Jâbir bin 'Abdillâh as.
Verily, Allah forgives not that partners should be set up with him in worship, but He forgives except that (anything else) to whom He pleases.

[Sūrah an-Nisā’ 4:48]

Sins, no matter how abundant they are, are all under the will of Allah, and the one who commits them has not become a disbeliever as long as he does not deem [these sins] to be permissible.82

Due to this, the ‘aqidah of Ahlus-Sunnah is balanced between that of the Khawārij and that of the Murji‘ah, for the Khawārij declare Muslims to be disbelievers on account of their sins, whereas the Murji‘ah say that sins are not harmful as long as imān is present.

The Murji‘ah have another ‘aqidah that emanates from this, and it is their statement that imān does not increase or decrease, and this is a clear error. Indeed, sins weaken and harm imān. This statement of theirs opposes what is clearly stated in the Qur‘ān, for they say that imān does not increase or decrease, while Allah, the Majestic and High, says:

\[
\text{And the believers may increase in faith.}
\]

[Sūrah al-Muddaththir 74:31]

And some speech regarding this has preceded when discussing the affair of al-imān. And Allah knows best.

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82 This is regarding the Muslim, and he is in one of two states:

1) He is repentant for these sins. Therefore, if Allah wills, he will pardon him. And the one who repents from a sin is like one who has no sin.

2) He is persistent upon his sin until he dies. This person’s affair is with Allah; if He wills, He will punish him, and if He wills, He will forgive him. And Allah knows best.
Although actions are by the *tawfiq* of Allah due to His just wisdom, they are the reason for either the mercy of Allah or His punishment. Therefore, he who does righteousness, then it is by the *tawfiq* of Allah, and he who does other than this, then it is due to a wisdom that Allah willed. Allah will not be asked about what He does, whereas they will be asked. He upon whom Allah has mercy, then it is by way of His *tawfiq*, and he who is punished, then it is by way of His justice and His wisdom. And Allah knows best.

As the poet said:

ما للعباد عليه حق واجب، كلا ولا سعي لديه ضائع.

إن عذبوا فبعدله أونعموا، فبفضله وهو الكريم الواسع.

*That which the slaves have been given necessitates upon them an obligatory right,*

*And no effort of theirs shall be squandered.*

*If they are punished, it is by His justice.*

*If they are favored, it is by His bounty, and He is the Generous and the Expansive (in His favors).*

Those who have intellects are commanded to do righteousness and are prohibited from doing evil actions and causing corruption on earth from *shirk* and oppression, as well as the rest of the acts of disobedience and destructive sins. This is a great corruption, and Allah said:

ْوَاللَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُفْسِدِينَ

*And Allah does not like the corrupters.*

[Sūrah al-Ma‘ādah 5:64]

Allah ﷻ has also said:

ْوَلَا تَفْسِيدُوا فِي الأَرْضِ بَعْدَ إِصْلَاحِهَا
And do not do mischief on the earth, after it has been set in order.

[Surah al-A‘rafa 7:56]

And no one’s actions will save him unless Allāh covers him with His mercy. It is authentically reported from the Prophet ﷺ that he said:

لن يدخل أحدًا عمله الجنة 

The actions of none of you will enter him into Paradise.

The Companions said, “Not even you, O Messenger of Allāh?” He said:

لا، ولا أنا، إلا أن يتغفديي اللّه بفضله ورحمة

Not even I, unless Allāh covers me with His bounty and mercy.83

This is because the actions of the slaves, no matter how abundant they are, are by the tawfiq of Allāh and the favor that He has given them, and one favor cannot combat another favor that He has given them. And His favors cannot be enumerated, nor are they something minor. And Allāh knows best.

83 Reported by al-Bukhāri (#5673) from the hadith of Abū Hurayrah ﷺ.
And stoning the one who fornicates and has been previously married or is currently married is true and correct, if he confesses or the proof is established against him. The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ stoned the adulterers, as did the Imāms of guidance.

**Explanation**

I say: Stoning the fornicator is known in Allāh’s legislation by way of the Book and the Sunnah, as well as the consensus [of the Muslims], and no one disputes this except the people of desires and innovation, those who are astray. The *muḥsan* is the one who has had intercourse within the confines of a lawful marriage. Therefore, the prescribed punishment for he who fornicates after that is that he is pelted with stones until he dies. This is established by way of the Qur’ān, the Sunnah, and the consensus [of the Muslims], as well as the action of the four rightly-guided *khulafā’rāṣidūn*.

The Khawārij and the Muʿtazilah, as well as those who traverse upon the path of the people of misguidance, reject this. It is authentically reported from the chief of the believers, ‘Umar bin al-Khaṭṭāb ﷺ, in *Sahih al-Bukhārī* and others, that he said, “The verse of stoning was revealed with the Book of Allāh—we recited it, we understood it, and the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ stoned and we likewise stoned after him.” Then the recitation of the verse was abrogated; however, its ruling remained. The authentic Sunnah also affirmed this from the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ, as well as the consensus of the Muslims, and thus it became something known to be from the religion by way of necessity.
Ibn al-Mundhir said in his book *Al-Ijma*’, “And there is consensus upon the fact that the free person, if he marries another free person in a sound marital contract in which the marriage is consummated and he is a *muḥsan*, it is obligatory to stone him if he fornicates.”

I say: There were four situations in which this occurred and it is affirmed that the Messenger of Allāh established the prescribed punishment of stoning. They are:

1) The affair of Mā‘iz

2) The affair of al-Ghamidiyyah

3) The woman who was repentant

4) The two Jews

So what can remain after the truth except misguidance? Therefore, no consideration is given to the one who rejects or denies this, for he is upon the brink of destruction, if he has not disbelieved.

Imām Ahmad mentioned this affair here to oppose those who oppose this matter from the people of innovation and desires, from the Khawārij and other than them who claim Islām while in fact they are upon misguidance. It is as if he wanted to clarify that the *ummah* is united upon this and that no consideration is given to the one who opposes Allāh and His Messenger and follows a way other than that of the believers. Therefore, he is upon misguidance, and Allāh knows best.
And whoever belittles a single one of the Companions of the Messenger of Alläh ᵃ.s., or hates him due to something that occurred from him, or mentions his shortcomings, then he is an innovator until he supplicates for Alläh's mercy upon them all and [until] his heart is safe in regard to them.

**EXPLANATION**

The Companion is the one who met the Prophet ᵃ.s. as a believer and died upon that. Their virtue, their sanctity, the exalted nature of their status, and the mention of their excellent qualities is from that which the ummah is united upon, and speech regarding this has preceded. None belittles them or reviles them except a hypocrite or one who is ignorant and deluded and misguided by the hypocrites.

Ibn 'Umar ᵃ.s. said, “Do not revile the Companions of Muḥammad ᵃ.s., for the standing of one of them for an hour with the Messenger of Alläh ᵃ.s. is better than the actions of one of you for 40 years.”

Alläh has said:

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(اللهم صلوا علیهم ورضووا عنهم)
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Alläh is well-pleased with them as they are well-pleased with Him.

[Sūrah at-Tawbah 9:100]
This is what our Lord has said about them, so we say what our Lord said. We say, “O Allāh, indeed we are pleased with them, so be pleased with them, O our Lord!”

I say: It is sufficient for them as an honor that Allāh has praised them and is pleased with them. Similarly, Allāh said:

أَيْهَا النَّبِيُّ حَسْبَنَا اللَّهُ وَمِنْ أَتْبَعَكَ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ

O Prophet (Muhammad ﷺ), Allāh is sufficient for you and for the believers who follow you.

[Sūrah al-Anfāl 8:64]

Allāh has also said:

مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ وَالَّذِينَ مَعَهُ أُشِدَّاءٌ عَلَى الْكُفَّارِ يَحْمَمُونَ بَيْنَهُمْ

Muḥammad ﷺ is the Messenger of Allāh, and those who are with him are severe against disbelievers, and merciful among themselves.

[Sūrah al-Fath 48:29]

The verses and ahādīth in this regard are many. Allāh has said:

وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْدِونَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتَ يَغْفِرُ مَا اكْتَسَبُوا فَقَدْ احْتَمَلُوا بَهِتَانًا وَأَنَا مُبِينًا

And those who annoy believing men and women undeservedly, bear on themselves the crime of slander and plain sin.

[Sūrah al-Ahzāb 33:58]

Without doubt, the Companions are the first of the believers. As for the one who declares them to be disbelievers or claims that they apostated after the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ, then this person is a disbe-
believer and a heretic, without doubt; he has denied what is explicitly stated in the Qur’an regarding Allah’s pleasure with them. His statement implies that the carriers of the Book and the Sunnah are disbelievers or wicked people, and this is in opposition to the statement of Allah ﷻ:

«كنتم خير أممة أخرجتمها للناس»

You are the best of peoples ever raised up for mankind.

[Sūrah Ali ‘Imrān 3:110]

Therefore, without doubt, the Rāfidah are disbelievers. Shaykh-ul-Islām Ibn Taymiyyah ﷻ mentioned in Al-‘Aqidah al-Wāsitiyyah, “Chapter: From the principles of Ahlus-Sunnah wal-Jama’ah is purity of the heart and tongue for the Companions of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, as Allah ﷻ has described them in His Book with this statement:

وَالَّذِينَ جَاءَوا مِن بَعْدِهِمْ يَقُولُونَ رَبّنَا اغْفِر لَنَا وَإِخْوَانِنَا الَّذِينَ سَتَقُومُونَ بِالْإِيمَانِ وَلَا نَجْعَلُ في قُلُوبِنَا غَيْرًا لِّلذِّينَ آمَنُوا رَبّنَا إِنَّكَ رَقِيفٌ رَجِيمٌ

And those who came after them say, “Our Lord! Forgive us and our brethren who have preceded us in faith, and put not in our hearts any hatred against those who have believed. Our Lord! You are indeed full of kindness, Most Merciful.”

[Sūrah al-Hashr 59:10]

“(It is also) obedience to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, for he has said:

لا تسبوا أصحابي. فوالذي نفسي بَيْلِه! لو أن أحدهم أنفق مثل أحد دُهِى، ما أدرك مدَّ أَحَدِهِم، ولا نصيَّة.

Do not revile my Companions, for by He in whose Hands is my soul, if one of you were to spend gold equal to Mount Uhud in charity,
it would not equal a handful spent by one of them, not even half of that.  

“And we must accept what has come in the Book and the Sunnah as well as the consensus [of the Muslims] regarding their virtues and their status.”

He also said, “And they (Ahlus-Sunnah) give precedence to the Muhājirūn over the Anṣār and believe that Allāh said concerning the people of Badr, who were 310-some odd men, ‘Do what you wish, for I have already forgiven you.’ They likewise believe that, ‘None who pledged their allegiance under the tree will enter the Fire,’ as the Prophet ﷺ has reported. Rather, Allāh is pleased with them and they are pleased with Him. And they were more than 1,400 people.

“They also testify to Paradise for those whom the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ has testified will be in Paradise, such as the ten [Companions], Thābit bin Qays bin Shammās, and other than them from the Companions. And they believe that the khalifah after the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ was Abū Bakr, then ‘Umar, then ‘Uthmān, then ‘Ali; and he who reviles a single one of these khulafā’, then he is more astray than a domestic donkey.

“And they consider the wives of the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ to be the Mothers of the Believers. And they believe that they are his wives in the hereafter, particularly Khadijah ﷺ, the mother of most of his children and the first to believe in him and support him, and she has a lofty position. Also, as-Siddiqah bint as-Siddīq, concerning whom the Prophet ﷺ said, ‘The virtue of Ā’ishah over other women is like that of tharīd over other foods.’ Imām Mālik ﷺ said, ‘Those who revile the Companions are people who wish to criticize the Prophet ﷺ. However, they were not able to do so, so they criticize his Companions.’”

Imām Abū Zur’ah ﷺ said, “If you see a man belittling any one of the Companions of the Messenger ﷺ, then know that he is a zindiq.

84 Reported by Muslim (#2540) from the hadith of Abū Hurayrah ﷺ.
85 Shaykh-ul-Islām Ibn Taymiyyah reported this from him in As-Sārim al-Maslul (1/581).
This is because the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ, according to us, is the truth, and the Qurān is the truth, and this Qurān and the Sunnah have only reached us by way of the Companions of the Messenger ﷺ. And the heretics only desire to criticize our witnesses in order to falsify the Book and the Sunnah. Therefore, criticism of them takes precedence, for they are heretics.86

Also, there are other deviant people of innovation and misguidance who oppose this, and they are the Rāfīḍah, for they hate the Companions of the Prophet ﷺ and they transgress against them aggressively and insolently, and they mention their errors and spread them. They revile them, while the Companions of the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ are mujtahidūn who will be rewarded and forgiven for their mistakes, if they even had mistakes. They have entered into that which does not concern them, and thus they have gone astray and led others astray.

The scholars have made excuses for the Companions of the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ for what occurred between them, especially Shaykh-ul-Islām Ibn Taymiyyah ﷺ, who said in Al-ʿAqidah al-Wāsitīyyah:

"Either it is a lie and has no basis, and thus is from what their enemies have fabricated against them; or it is something that has been added to, altered, or changed from its reality. And for what is authentic from it, then they have been pardoned; either they were mujtahidūn who were correct or they were mujtahidūn who were mistaken, and the Prophet ﷺ has informed us that he who makes ījtihād and is correct will receive two rewards, and he who makes ījtihād and is in error will still receive one reward."

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86 Ibn ʿAsākir reported this in his book of history (38/32).
And hypocrisy is disbelief. It is that one disbelieves in Allāh and worships other than Him while outwardly manifesting Islām, like the hypocrites who lived during the era of the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ.

In regard to his statement: “Whoever possesses [these] three characteristics is a hypocrite...” then this is to discourage from their way, and we narrate it as it has come and we do not explain it away.

And in regard to his statement: “Do not revert to being disbelievers after me and go astray, striking each other’s necks.” Likewise, his statement: “When two Muslims meet with their swords, then the murderer and the one who was killed are in the Fire.” Likewise, his statement: “Reviling a Muslim is wickedness and fighting him is disbelief.” Likewise, his statement: “He who says to his brother, ‘O disbeliever,’ then the statement will return to one of them.” Likewise, his statement: “It is disbelief in Allāh for one to deny his lineage, even if he deems it to be insignificant.”
authentically reported and preserved, even if we do not know their explanation; and we do not speak regarding them nor do we debate or seek to explain these narrations away except with the likes of what they have come with. And we do not reject them, except for that which has more right to be accepted than them.

EXPLANATION

I say: The term an-nifāq (النفاق) is derived from the word an-nafq (النفق) and it is a burial in the earth, like a crypt or a basement that is covered in it. It is called nīfāq for this reason, because the hypocrite covers his disbelief and hides it by outwardly manifesting Islām. In reality, his inner condition dictates that he is a disbeliever. This is in reference to an-nifāq al-akbar (major hypocrisy), which is hypocrisy in belief. The one who has this is a disbeliever who will be in the lowest depths of the Hellfire. And he will not find any helper, nor will his statement of tawḥīd, his testimony that “none has the right to be worshiped except Allah” which he outwardly professed, benefit him.

Allāh the Exalted has said:

إِذَا جَاءَكُمُونَ فَأَلْوَاهُمْ نَعْظَمُ إِنَّكَ لِرَسُولِ اللَّهِ

When the hypocrites come to you (O Muḥammad), they say, “We bear witness that you are indeed the Messenger of Allāh.”

[Sūrah al-Munāfiqūn 63:1]

Likewise, Allāh has said:

وَإِذَا لَفَوَّا الْأَنْبِيَاءِ أَمَّا مُعَلِّمُونَ أَمَّا مُسْتَهْيِئُونَ

And when they meet those who believe, they say, “We believe,” but when they are alone with their shayātīn
(devils), they say, “Truly, we are with you; verily, we were but mocking.”

[Sūrah al-Baqarah 2:14]

They outwardly manifest Islam while inwardly concealing disbelief and hypocrisy. As for his statement, “Whoever possesses [these] three characteristics is a hypocrite…” and in another hadith, “Whoever possesses [these] four characteristics is a hypocrite…” then this is in reference to the hypocrisy of action and not the hypocrisy in belief.

Thus, I say: Disbelief is divided into two categories:

1) **Kufr i’tiqādi** (kufr in one’s belief system)

2) **Kufr ‘amali** (disbelief in action)

The Salaf referred to this as *kufr dūna kufr* (disbelief that is less than true disbelief). Major disbelief expels one from the religion, whereas minor disbelief does not expel one from the religion.

Likewise, *an-nifāq* is of two types: there is *nifāq akbar* (major hypocrisy) and *nifāq asghar* (minor hypocrisy). One form of hypocrisy expels one from the religion, and the other form does not expel one from the religion. Similarly, *shirk* is of two types: from it there is that which is major, and from it there is that which is minor. Also like this is *al-fisq* (wickedness), as well as *az-zulm* (oppression). All of these have a minor form and a major form.

As for that which is major, it is what encompasses all of its types and categories and has reached its pinnacle. The Prophet ﷺ clarified this to those who asked him, “And who from among us has not wronged his own soul?” He said:

ٍإن الشرك ظلم عظيم

Indeed, *shirk* is a tremendous form of oppression.87

87 Reported by at-Tirmidhi (#3067) from the hadith of ‘Abdullāh bin Mas‘ūd; graded *sahih* by al-Albānī in *Sahih al-Jāmi‘*.
Also like this are *al-fisq, ash-shirk, an-nifâq, al-baghi* (oppression), and other than this from the destructive and deadly sins. And we ask Allâh to safeguard us from this, and Allâh knows best.

The statement of Imâm Âhmâd here is in regard to hypocrisy in action: “Whoever possesses [these] three characteristics is a hypocrite...” or “Whoever possesses [these] four characteristics is a hypocrite...” And he commented by saying, “This is to discourage.” He intends that this is mentioned for the purpose of discouragement and rebuke, because its affair is weighty and heinous upon the Muslim whose heart has life. Therefore, he must avoid it and stay far away from it. This does not mean that the one who does them is a hypocrite who has major hypocrisy that necessitates him being in the lowest depths of the Hellfire, and that he is one who secretly conceals disbelief. We seek refuge with Allâh from this.

However, due to the severity of these characteristics and actions and their heinous nature, they are mentioned like this so the people will flee from them. This is the meaning of his statement wherein he said, “We narrate them as they have come, and we do not seek to explain them away.”

These *ahadith* which have been cited all denote this, and their chains of narration are authentic. The Imâms have preserved them until they reached us. So it is obligatory that they be narrated as they are in order to rebuke, censure, and discourage. Allâh has said:

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\text{ۚ إنَ في ذِلَك لِذُكْرِيَ لَمَّا كَانَ لَهُ مَثَلُ أو أَلْقَى السَّمَعُ}
\]

\[
\text{وَهُوَ شَهِيَّٰثُ}
\]

Verily, therein is indeed a reminder for him who has a heart or gives ear while he is heedful.

*[Surah Qaf 50:37]*

And this is what is apparent from the statement of Imâm Âhmâd wherein he said, “We do not seek to explain them away.” And Allâh knows best.
It is not [the case] that he deems the one who does them to be a
hypocrite who has major hypocrisy with him and thus conceals
disbelief while outwardly manifesting Islam and who will be in the
lowest depths of the Hellfire, and Allah knows best.

It has also been reported regarding disbelief that the Prophet ﷺ said:

لا ترجعوا بعدِي كفّاراً، يضربُ بعضكم رقاب بعضٍ.

Do not revert to becoming disbelievers after me by striking each
other’s necks.88

And likewise his statement:

سَبَبُ المسلمُ فِسوقٍ، وَقَتَالُهُ كَفِيرٌ.

Reviling a Muslim is wickedness and to fight him is disbelief.89

And his statement:

تَكُفُّرُنَّ العشيرةً.

You are ungrateful to your husbands.90

And other than this from the ahâdith and narrations regarding this.
The intended meaning of these narrations is not major disbelief that
expels one from the religion; it is only the disbelief that is less than
actual disbelief, as has been authentically reported from Ibn ‘Abbâs
اله‎, and Allah knows best.

This is the meaning of the statement of Imam Ahmad ﷺ wherein
he said, “...a means of discouragement,” and his statement, “And we
do not seek to explain them away.” Meaning, they are mentioned, and
they remain as they have come, in order to rebuke and discourage

88 Reported by an-Nasâ‘i (#4126) from the hadith of ‘Abdullâh bin ‘Umar; graded sahih by al-Albâni in Mukhtasar as-Silsilah as-Sahîhah (#1974).
89 Reported by al-Bukhârî (#6044) from the hadith of ‘Abdullâh bin Mas‘ûd ﷺ.
90 Reported by Ibn Hibbân (#3320) from the hadith of al-Hâkim bin Hîzám; graded sahih by al-Albâni in Sahîh al-Jâmi‘ (#7980).
these qualities and blameworthy characteristics. It is not to be understood from them that their meaning is literal. So may Allah have mercy upon Imam Ahmad with a vast and expansive mercy. O Allah, safeguard us from every evil and from these despicable characteristics.

The Khawārij, who are a people of desires, have disputed regarding this matter, and they interpret them based on their apparent meanings and they have made some of the statements of the Messenger ﷺ contradict other [statements of his]. Thus, they have declared the Muslims to be disbelievers and their blood and honor as lawful to violate, while they safeguard the wealth and blood of the polytheist. Thus, they have gone far astray. The statement of the Messenger ﷺ regarding them is true, wherein he said:

They kill the people of Islam and they leave the idol worshipers alone.⁹¹

O Allah, safeguard us from lying against You, or from speaking regarding You without knowledge.

⁹¹ Reported by al-Bukhāri (#7432) from the hadith of Abū Sa‘īd al-Khudri ﷺ.
And Paradise and the Fire are created. They have already been created, as it has come from the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ that he said, “I entered Paradise and I saw a castle.” He likewise said, “I saw al-Kawthar.” And he said, “I saw Paradise and I saw that the majority of its inhabitants...” And he said, “I looked into Paradise and I saw...(such-and-such).” He who claims that they are not created, then he has belied the Qur’ân and the narrations of the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ, and I do not deem him to be a believer in Paradise and the Hellfire.

He who dies from the people of the qiblah as a muwahhid (true monotheist) is to be prayed upon and forgiveness is to be sought for him, and forgiveness being sought for him is not to be prevented nor is prayer over him to be abandoned due to a sin that he committed, whether it be major or minor. His affair is with Allâh the Exalted.

This is the end of the treatise, and all praises are for Allâh alone. May prayers and peace be upon Muhammad, his family, and his Companions.
**EXPLANATION**

I say: Paradise is the abode of the pious, and the Fire is the abode of the disbelievers. Thus, Allâh has made them so He may reward the obedient one for his obedience, and He may requite the sinful and the disobedient, obstinate one and the disbeliever for his actions. This is from the completion of His justice, and Allâh is such that:

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\text{وَلَا يَظْلِمُ رَبُّكَ أَمَّامًا}
\]

*Your Lord treats no one with injustice.*  
**[Sûrah al-Kahf 18:49]**

Paradise and the Hellfire are both known. Paradise is the abode of delight, and the Fire is the abode of punishment and burning, and they are both created and in existence. And they are prepared and ready. Each of them awaits their people and their inhabitants. O Allâh, make us from the people of Paradise and its inhabitants and do not make us from the people of the Fire and its inhabitants.

Muṣṭafâ has informed us that he entered Paradise, and he saw it and its people. Likewise, he entered the Fire, and he saw it and its people. Therefore, it is obligatory upon us to believe in that and to not reject it or deny it. Imâm Aḥmad mentioned this, and he mentioned that it is from the principles of Ahlus-Sunnah. This is due to the denial of that by the obstinate ones and the people of desires, such as the Muʿtazilah and other than them. Without doubt, they have deviated in this regard. He who claims that they are not in existence is one who denies the Qur’ân, for Allâh, the Exalted and High, has said concerning Paradise:

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(\text{It is) prepared for the pious.})
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* [Sûrah Āl ī ‘Imrân 3:133]*

And He said likewise concerning the Fire:
And preparation means that they exist and they are ready. Therefore, they are actually in existence. Allah, the Majestic and High, said concerning Fir’awn:

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\text{And preparation means that they exist and they are ready. Therefore, they are actually in existence. Allah, the Majestic and High, said concerning Fir’awn:}
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\text{The Fire; they are exposed to it, morning and afternoon, and on the Day when the Hour will be established (it will be said to the angels): “Cause Fir’awn’s people to enter the severest torment!”}
\]

\[\text{[Surah Ghafir 40:46]}\]

As for in the hereafter, Paradise and the Fire will remain for eternity and they will never perish. They will remain because Allah will cause them to remain. And there is neither sun nor moon therein.

Allah has said:

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\text{They will see there neither the excessive heat of the sun, nor the excessive bitter cold.}
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\[\text{[Surah al-Insān 76:13]}\]

And Allah knows best. This is what Allah has facilitated from the explanation of these blessed principles. And Allah is the granter of success.