The Creed of Imam al-Tahawi: Al-'Aqīdah al-Ṭaḥāwīyah

Translated with references to proofs from the Quran and Sunnah by Justin Parrott (Abu Amina Elias)

The text of al-'Aqidah al-Tahawiyyah

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم وبه نستعين الحمد لله رب العالمين

In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful, from whom we seek help. All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds.

هذا ذكر بيان عقيدة أهل السنة والجماعة على مذهب فقهاء الملة أبي حنيفة النعمان بن ثابت الكوفي وأبي يوسف يعقوب بن إبراهيم الأنصاري وأبي عبدالله محمد بن الحسن الشيباني رضوان الله عليهم أجمعين وما يعتقدون من أصول الدين ويدينون به رب العالمين

This is a clear presentation of the creed of *Ahl al-Sunnah wal Jama'ah*, according to the doctrine of the jurists of the religion, Abu Hanifah al-Nu'man ibn Thabit al-Kufi, Abu Yusuf Ya'qub ibn Ibrahim al-Ansari and Abu Abdullah Muhammad ibn al-Hasan al-Shaybani, may Allah be pleased with them all, and what they believe regarding the fundamentals of the religion and their faith in the Lord of the worlds.

التَّوْجِيدُ

Monotheism

نَقُولُ فِي تَوْحِيدِ اللَّهِ مُعْتَقِدِينَ بِتَوْفِيقِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَاحِدٌ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ

We say about the oneness of Allah, believing in the guidance of Allah, that Allah is one without any partner.

وَلَا شَيْءَ مِثْلُهُ

There is nothing like Him.¹

وَلَا شَيْءَ يُعْجِزُهُ

There is nothing that can weaken Him.²

¹ "There is nothing like unto Him, and He is the Hearing, the Seeing." (Sūrat al-Shūrā 42:11)

² "We have become certain that we will never cause failure to Allah upon earth, nor can we escape Him by flight." (Sūrat al-Jinn 72:11)

وَلَا إِلَّهَ غَيْرُهُ

There is nothing worthy of worship but Him.³

قَدِيمٌ بلا ابْتِدَاءِ دَائِمٌ بلا انْتِهَاءِ

He is the eternal without a beginning and enduring without end.⁴

لا يَفْنَى وَلا يَبِيدُ

He will never perish, nor come to an end.⁵

وَلَا يَكُونُ إِلَّا مَا يُرِيدُ

Nothing happens except what He wills.⁶

لَا تَبْلُغُهُ الْأَوْهَامُ وَلَا تُدْرِكُهُ الْأَفْهَامُ

No imagination can fully conceive of Him. No understanding can fully comprehend Him.⁷

وَلَا يُشْبِهُهُ الْأَنَامُ

He does not resemble any created being.8

حَيٌّ لَا يَمُوتُ قَيُّومٌ لَا يَنَامُ

He is living and He never dies, always sustaining and never sleeping.9

خَالِقٌ بِلَا حَاجَةٍ رَازِقٌ بِلَا مُؤُونَةٍ

He creates without a need to create, ¹⁰ and He provides for His creation without any effort. ¹¹

مُمِيتٌ بِلَا مَخَافَةٍ بَاعِثٌ بِلَا مَشَقَّةٍ

³ "Your god is one God. There is nothing worthy of worship but Him, the Gracious, the Merciful." (Sūrat al-Baqarah 2:163)

⁴ "He is the First and the Last, the Ascendant and the Intimate, for He knows all things." (Sūrat al-Ḥadīd 57:3)

⁵ "Everything will perish but His Face." (28:88)

⁶ "You do not will except that Allah wills. Verily, Allah is ever Knowing and Wise." (Sūrat al-Insān 76:30)

⁷ "They encompass not a thing of His knowledge except for what He wills." (Sūrat al-Baqarah 2:255)

⁸ "So do not assert similarities to Allah. Verily, Allah knows and you do not know." (Sūrat al-Nahl 16:74)

⁹ "Rely upon the Living who does not die, and exalt with His praise." (Sūrat al-Furqān 25:58)

¹⁰ "If you should disbelieve, you and whoever is on the earth together, then Allah is still Independent and Praiseworthy." (Sūrat Ibrāhīm 14:8)

¹¹ "His command, when He intends a thing, is that He merely says to it, 'Be,' and it is." (Sūrat Yā Sīn 36:82)

He causes death with no fear of consequences, and He resurrects without any difficulty. 12

He has existed with His timeless attributes before His creation, which added nothing to His essence that was not already among His attributes. As His attributes were before creation, so will they continue forever.

It is not because He created the creation that He earned the name, 'The Creator,' nor by His making it did he earn the name, 'The Maker.'

He has the quality of Lordship without requiring anything to Lord over, and the quality of being the Creator without requiring anything to create.

Just as He resurrects the dead after they first had life, He deserved this name before He brought them to life. Likewise, He deserved the name of 'The Creator' before He produced them.

This is because He has power over all things and all things are in need of Him. ¹³ Every matter is easy for Him. He has no need of anything, for 'there is nothing like unto Him, and He is the Hearing, the Seeing.' ¹⁴

He created the creation with His knowledge. 15

^{12 &}quot;O Allah, you are the First, there is nothing before you. You are the Last, there is nothing after you. You are the Manifest, there is nothing above you. You are the Hidden, there is nothing beyond you." (Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 2713, Sahih)

¹³ "Allah is Independent, while you are in need." (Sūrat Muḥammad 47:38)

¹⁴ Sūrat al-Shura 42:11.

¹⁵ "Does He who created not know, while He is the Subtle, the Aware?" (Sūrat al-Mulk 67:14)

He decreed destinies for them.¹⁶

وَضرَبَ لَهُمْ آجَالًا

He set for them life spans.¹⁷

Nothing was hidden from Him before He created them. He knew what they would do before He created them. ¹⁸

He commanded them to obey Him and He forbade them to disobey Him. ¹⁹ وَكُلُّ شَيْءٍ يَجْرِي بِتَقْدِيرِهِ وَمَشِيئَتِهِ وَمَشِيئَتُهُ تَنْفُذُ لَا مَشِيئَةَ لِلْعِبَادِ إِلَّا مَا شَاءَ لَهُمْ فَمَا شَاءَ لَهُمْ كَانَ وَمَا لَمْ يَكُنْ شَيْءٍ يَجْرِي بِتَقْدِيرِهِ وَمَشِيئَتِهِ وَمَشِيئَتُهُ تَنْفُذُ لَا مَشِيئَةَ لِلْعِبَادِ إِلَّا مَا شَاءَ لَهُمْ فَمَا شَاءَ لَهُمْ كَانَ وَمَا لَمْ يَكُنْ

Everything that occurs is according to His decree and will. His will is always accomplished. The will of the servants is only what He wills for them. Whatever He wills for them comes to be, and whatever He does not will for them does not come to be.²⁰

He guides whomever He wills. He protects them and secures them as grace. He leads astray whomever He wills.²¹ He humiliates them and He puts them to trial in justice.²²

All of them go back and forth by His will, between His grace and His justice.²³

¹⁶ "Verily, all things We created with measure (*qadr*)." (54:49)

¹⁷ "Allah does not respite a soul when its appointed term has come, for Allah is aware of what you do." (Sūrat al-Munāfiqūn 63:11)

¹⁸ "Allah knows what is before them and what will be after them, but they do not encompass any of its knowledge." (20:110)

¹⁹ "Say, 'Obey Allah and the Messenger,' but if they turn away, then Allah does not love the unbelievers." (Sūrat Ali 'Imrān 3:32)

²⁰ "Allah is victorious in His affair, but most people do not know." (Sūrat Yusuf 12:21)

²¹ "Allah sends astray whomever He wills and He guides to the Straight Path whomever He wills." (Sūrat al-An'ām 6:39)

²² "Whatever strikes you of disaster, it is for what your hands have earned, yet He pardons much." (Sūrat al-Shūrā 42:30)

²³ "He punishes whomever He wills and He has mercy upon whomever He wills, and to Him you will be returned." (Sūrat al-'Ankabūt 29:21)

He is Exalted beyond having opposites or partners.²⁴

None can repel His decree, amend His judgment, or overpower His command.²⁵

We believe in all of this. We are certain that it is all from Him. ²⁶

The Seal of Prophecy

Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, is His chosen servant, His selected prophet, and His Messenger with whom He is well pleased.²⁷

He is the seal of the prophets, the leader of the righteous, the master of the Messengers, and the beloved of the Lord of worlds.²⁸

Every claim to prophecy after him is falsehood and deceit.²⁹

He has been sent to all of the jinn and the entirety of humanity with truth, guidance, light, and illumination.³⁰

²⁴ "There is no one worthy of worship but Him, the Almighty, the Wise." (Sūrat Ali 'Imran 3:6)

²⁵ "So direct your face towards the upright religion before a Day comes from Allah which cannot be repelled." (Sūrat al-Rūm 30:43)

²⁶ "Those firm in knowledge say, 'We believe in it. All of it is from our Lord." (Sūrat Ali 'Imrān 3:7)

²⁷ "Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah." (Sūrat al-Fath 48:29)

²⁸ "Muhammad is not the father of any one of your men, but rather he is the Messenger of Allah and last of the prophets." (Sūrat al-Ahzāb 33:40)

²⁹ "Verily, there will be thirty liars among my nation, all of them claiming to be a prophet, but I am the seal of the Prophets. There is no prophet after me." (Sunan al-Tirmidhī 2219, *Sahih*)

³⁰ "O people, I am the Messenger of Allah to you all, from Him to whom belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth." (Sūrat al-A'rāf 7:158)

The Quran is the uncreated speech of Allah Almighty

وَإِنَّ الْقُرْآنَ كَلَامُ اللَّهِ مِنْهُ بَدَا بِلَا كَيْفِيَّةٍ قَوْلًا وَأَنْزَلَهُ عَلَى رَسُولِهِ وَحْيًا وَصَدَّقَهُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ عَلَى ذَلِكَ حَقًّا وَأَنْوَلُهُ عَلَى رَسُولِهِ وَحْيًا وَصَدَّقَهُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ عَلَى ذَلِكَ حَقًّا وَأَيْقَنُوا أَنَّهُ كَلَامُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى بِالْحَقِيقَةِ

The Quran is the word of Allah.³¹ It originally came from Him, without ascribing modality to His speech.³² He sent it down upon His messenger as revelation. The believers accept all of that as the truth. They are certain that it is the word of Allah Almighty in reality.

لَيْسَ بِمَخْلُوقِ كَكَلَامِ الْبَرِيَّةِ فَمَنْ سَمِعَهُ فَزَعَمَ أَنَّهُ كَلَامُ الْبَشَرِ فَقَدْ كَفَرَ وَقَدْ ذَمَّهُ اللَّهُ وَعَابَهُ وَأَوْ عَدَهُ بِسَقَرَ خَيْثُ قَالَ إِنْ هَذَا إِلَّا قَوْلُ الْبَشَرِ عَلِمْنَا وَأَيْقَنَّا أَنَّهُ قَوْلُ خَيْثُ قَالَ إِنْ هَذَا إِلَّا قَوْلُ الْبَشَرِ عَلِمْنَا وَأَيْقَنَّا أَنَّهُ قَوْلُ خَلِقِ الْبَشَرِ وَلَا يُشْبِهُ قَوْلَ الْبَشَر

It is uncreated, unlike the speech of creatures.³³ Whoever hears it and imagines that it is human speech has committed unbelief. Allah has blamed him, censured him, and threatens him with Fire, wherein the Almighty said, 'I will burn him in the Fire,'³⁴ When Allah threatens with the Fire those who said, 'This is only human speech,'³⁵ we know with certainty that it is the speech of the Creator of humanity and it does not resemble the speech of humanity.

صِفَاتُ اللَّهِ لَيْسنَتْ كَصِفَاتِ الْبَشَرِ

The attributes of Allah are unlike those of human beings

وَمَنْ وَصَفَ اللَّهَ بِمَعْنَى مِنْ مَعَانِي الْبَشَرِ فَقَدْ كَفَرَ مَنْ أَبْصَرَ هَذَا اعْتَبَرَ وَعَنْ مِثْلِ قَوْلِ الْكُفَّارِ انْزَجَرَ وَ عَلِمَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ بِصِفَاتِهِ لَيْسَ كَالْبَشَر

Whoever describes Allah with the same qualities as human beings has committed unbelief.³⁶ Whoever grasps this will be careful and restrained from the likes of what is said by the unbelievers. He knows that the attributes of Allah are unlike those of human beings.

³¹ "Verily, this is the word of a noble messenger, established in the presence of the Lord of the Throne." (Sūrat al-Takwīr 81:19-20)

³² This refers to the principle of *bi l kayf*, i.e. not ascribing a definite form to matters of the Unseen.

³³ "If the sea were ink for writing the words of my Lord, the sea would be exhausted before the words of my Lord were exhausted, even if We brought the like of it as a supplement." (Sūrat al-Kahf 18:109)

³⁴ Sūrat al-Mudathir 74:26.

³⁵ Sūrat al-Mudathir 74:25.

³⁶ "Nor is there to Him any equivalent." (Sūrat al-Ikhlāṣ 112:4)

The looking of the people of Paradise at their Lord without encompassing Him

The vision of the people of Paradise is true, without being all-encompassing and without modality. As expressed in the Book of our Lord, 'Faces on that Day will be radiant, looking at their Lord,' The explanation of this is as Allah Almighty intended and knows.

Everything that has come in authentic narrations from the Messenger, peace and blessings be upon him, is as he said and it means what he intended.³⁸ We do not insert our own opinions in it, nor do we imagine it according to our whims.

For none is safe in his religion except those who surrender themselves to Allah Almighty and to His Messenger,³⁹ and relinquishes the knowledge of what is ambiguous to the One who knows it.⁴⁰

Speaking about religious matters without knowledge

The foundation of one's Islam is not firm unless it is upon outward submission and surrender to Allah.⁴¹

³⁸ Imam al-Shafi'i said, "I believe in what has come from Allah, upon what was intended by Allah. I believe in what has come from the Messenger of Allah, upon what was intended by the Messenger of Allah." (Lum'at al-I'tiqād 1/7)

³⁷ Sūrat al-Qiyāmah 75:22-23.

³⁹ "Verily, the religion to Allah is Islam (surrendering to His will)." (Sūrat Ali 'Imrān 3:19)

⁴⁰ "Allah knows but you do not know." (Sūrat al-Baqarah 2:216)

⁴¹ "Whoever desires other than Islam as religion, it never will it be accepted from him, and he will lose in the Hereafter." (Sūrat Ali 'Imrān 3:85)

For whoever wishes to know what is forbidden and is not satisfied with surrender, his understanding will be veiled from pure monotheism, gnosis, and sound faith.⁴²

He will veer between unbelief and faith, confirmation and denial, acceptance and rejection. Compulsive, disagreeable, doubtful, and deviant, he is not a true believer, nor a stubborn denier.⁴³

Faith in the vision of the people of the Abode of Peace is not correct for those among them who express it as an illusion or who interpret it with their own limited understanding, as the correct interpretation of the vision, and the interpretation of every meaning related to the Lordship of Allah, is by abandoning interpretation and adhering to surrender.⁴⁴ This is the religion of the Muslims.

Whoever does not guard himself from negating the attributes of Allah or likening Allah to something else has strayed and has not correctly understood the transcendence of Allah, for our Lord Almighty is described with the attributes of Oneness, qualified with the qualities of uniqueness. He does not have the characteristics of any creature.⁴⁵

 $^{^{42}}$ "O you who have faith, do not ask about things which, if they are shown to you, will distress you." (Sūrat al-Mā'idah 5:101)

⁴³ "Among people is he who worships Allah on an edge. If he is touched by good, he is reassured by it, but if he is struck by trial, he turns on his face." (Sūrat al-Ḥajj 22:11)

⁴⁴ "Verily, you will see your Lord just as you see this moon. There will be no crowd to block your vision." (Sahīh al-Bukhārī 573, *Sahih*)

⁴⁵ "...that we will not worship but Allah and not associate anything with Him and not take one another as lords besides Allah." (Sūrat Ali Tmrān 3:64)

He is Exalted above any limits, ends, supports, limbs, or tools. He is not contained by six directions like the rest of created things. 46

The Night Journey and Ascension while the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, was awake

The ascension to heaven is true. The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, was taken by night and ascended in person during wakefulness, to the heavens and then to whichever heights Allah willed for him. 47 Allah honored him as He willed and He revealed to him what He revealed, 'His heart was not mistaken about what he saw,'48 Allah blessed him and granted him peace in the Hereafter and in this world.

الْحَوْض

The Prophetic Fountain

The Fountain (al-hawd), with which Allah Almighty honored him as nourishment for his nation, is true.⁴⁹

الشَّفَاعَةُ

The Intercession

وَ الشَّفَاعَةُ الَّتِي ادَّخَرَ هَا لَهُمْ حَقٌّ كَمَا رُ و يَ فِي الْأَخْبَارِ

⁴⁶ "Verily, your Lord is Allah who created the heavens and the earth in six days and then established Himself above the Throne, arranging the matter." (Sūrat Yūnus 10:3)

⁴⁷ "After the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, was miraculously taken by night to the furthest mosque in Jerusalem, the people began to talk about it. Some of them renounced their faith and belief in him. They sought Abu Bakr and they said, 'Have you heard that your friend imagined he was taken by night to the sacred house?' Abu Bakr said, 'Did he say that?' They said yes. Abu Bakr said, 'If he said it, he has spoken the truth.' They said, 'Do you believe he went by night to the sacred house and returned before morning?' Abu Bakr said, 'Yes. Verily, I believe what is even more astonishing than that. I believe he has received messages from heaven for everything he does.' For this reason, Abu Bakr was named the Truthful, al-Siddiq." (Dalā'il al-Nubuwwah lil-Bayhaqī 2/361)

⁴⁸ Sūrat al-Najm 53:11.

⁴⁹ "I will precede you at the Fountain. Whoever arrives at it and drinks from it, he will never feel thirst ever again." (Sahīh al-Bukhārī 7050, Sahih)

The Intercession (*al-shafa'ah*), which he deferred for them until the Day of Resurrection, is true as related in the narrations.⁵⁰

The covenant that Allah took from Adam and his progeny

The covenant that Allah Almighty took from Adam and his progeny is true.⁵¹

Allah Almighty has always known the number of those who would enter Paradise and the number of those who would enter Hellfire, a single allocation. This number will neither increase nor decrease.⁵²

Likewise for the actions of people, as He knows among them what they would do.⁵³

القضاء والقدر

Divine Providence

Everyone is facilitated for what was created for him.⁵⁴ Deeds are judged as they are at the end of life.⁵⁵ Those who are blessed are blessed by the decree of Allah, and those who are damned are damned by the decree of Allah.

⁵⁰ "My intercession is for the people of major sins among my nation." (Sunan al-Tirmidhī 2435, *Sahih*)

⁵¹ "When your Lord took from the children of Adam their progeny, from their loins, and made them testify of themselves, saying, 'Am I not your Lord?' They said, 'Yes, we have testified.' Lest you should say on the Day of Resurrection, 'Indeed, we were unaware of this.'" (Sūrat al-A'rāf 7:172)

⁵² "He has encompassed whatever is with them and has enumerated all things in number." (Sūrat al-Jinn 72:28)

^{53 &}quot;Allah is not unaware of what you do." (Sūrat al-Bagarah 2:140)

⁵⁴ "As for one who fears Allah and give charity, We will make easy for him the path of ease. As for one who is miserly and considers himself independent (of Allah) and denies the best (in the Hereafter), We will make easy for him the path of hardship." (Sūrat al-Layl 92:5-10)

^{55 &}quot;Verily, deeds are only judged by how they were at the end of life." (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 6607, Sahih)

وَ أَصِنْلُ الْقَدَرِ سِرُّ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى فِي خَاْقِهِ لَمْ يَطَّلِعْ عَلَى ذَلِكَ مَلَكُ مُقَرَّبٌ وَلَا نَبِيٍّ مُرْسَلٌ وَالتَّعَمُّقُ وَالنَّظَرُ فِي ذَلِكَ مَلَكُ مُقَرَّبٌ وَلَا نَبِيٍّ مُرْسَلٌ وَالتَّعَمُّقُ وَالنَّظَرُ فِي ذَلِكَ ذَرِيعَةُ الْخِذْلَانِ وَسُلَّمُ الْحِرْمَانِ وَدَرَجَةُ الطُّغْيَانِ

The basis of providence is that it is a secret of Allah Almighty in His creation.⁵⁶ It has not been shown to an angel near to Him, nor to a prophet He sent. Delving and investigating deeply into that is a cause of loss, a ladder to deprivation, and a degree of transgression.⁵⁷

فَالْحَذَرَ كُلَّ الْحَذَرِ مِنْ ذَلِكَ نَظَرًا وَفِكْرًا وَوَسْوَسَةً فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى طَوَى عِلْمَ الْقَدَرِ عَنْ أَنَامِهِ وَنَهَاهُمْ عَنْ مَرَامِهِ كَمَا قَالَ تَعَالَى فِي كِتَابِهِ لَا يُسْأَلُ عَمَّا يَفْعَلُ وَهُمْ يُسْأَلُونَ فَمَنْ سَأَلَ لِمَ فَعَلَ فَقَدْ رَدَّ حُكْمَ الْكِتَابِ وَ مَنْ رَدَّ حُكْمَ الْكِتَابِ كَانَ مِنَ الْكَافِرِ بِنَ

Thus, take extreme caution from that type of investigation, thinking, and insinuation. For Allah Almighty has hidden the knowledge of providence from His creatures and has prohibited them from seeking it, as said by Allah Almighty in His Book, 'He will not be questioned about what He does, but they will be questioned.'58 Whoever asks why He did something has rejected the judgment of the Book, and whoever rejects the judgment of the Book is among the unbelievers.⁵⁹

فَهَذَا جُمْلَةُ مَا يَحْتَاجُ إِلَيْهِ مَنْ هُوَ مُنَوَّرٌ قَلْبُهُ مِنْ أَوْلِيَاءِ اللهِ تَعَالَى وَهِيَ دَرَجَةُ الرَّاسِخِينَ فِي الْعِلْمِ لِأَنَّ الْعِلْمَ عِلْمُ فِي الْحَلْمِ الْمَوْجُودِ كُفْرٌ وَادِّعَاءُ الْعِلْمِ الْمَوْجُودِ كُفْرٌ وَادِّعَاءُ الْعِلْمِ الْمَفْقُودِ كُفْرٌ وَلاَ يَثْبُتُ الْإِيمَانُ إِلَّا بِقَبُولِ الْعِلْمِ الْمَوْجُودِ وَتَرْكِ طَلَبِ الْعِلْمِ الْمَفْقُودِ

This is the summary of what is needed by those who have enlightened hearts among the allies of Allah Almighty. It is the degree of those rooted in knowledge, for knowledge in the creation is of two types: accessible knowledge and inaccessible knowledge. To deny accessible knowledge is unbelief, and to claim to know what is inaccessible is unbelief. ⁶⁰ Faith is only affirmed by accepting accessible knowledge and abandoning pursuit of inaccessible knowledge.⁶¹

⁵⁸ Sūrat al-Anbiyā' 21:23.

⁵⁶ "He has the keys to the Unseen. None knows them but Him." (Sūrat al-An'ām 6:59)

⁵⁷ "If the divine decree is mentioned, be restrained." (al-Mu'jam al-Kabīr 10302, <u>Sahih</u>)

⁵⁹ "Whoever does not judge by what Allah has revealed, then they are among the disbelievers." (Sūrat al-Mā'idah 5:44). Note: Whoever judges in contradiction to the Law due to mistaken interpretation or ignorance, it is a lesser form of unbelief that does not expel one from the religion. A man said to Ibn Abbas, "Has one who does this committed unbelief?" Ibn Abbas said, "It is a type of unbelief if he does that, but it is not like one who disbelieves in Allah, the Last Day, and so on." (Tafsīr al-Tabarī 5:44)

^{60 &}quot;Or do you say about Allah that which you do not know?" (Sūrat al-Bagarah 2:80)

⁶¹ "He has remained silent upon matters as mercy for you, not out of forgetfulness, so do not search them out." (Sunan al-Dāragutnī 4396, Sahih)

اللَّوْحُ الْمَحْفُوطُ وَالْقَلَمُ

The Preserved Tablet and the Pen

وَنُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّوْحِ وَالْقَلَمِ وَبِجَمِيعِ مَا فِيهِ قَدْ رُقِمَ

We believe in the Preserved Tablet (*al-lawh al-maḥfuz*), the Pen, and in everything inscribed on it.⁶²

If all creation gathered against something Allah Almighty had decreed to be, that they try to make it not exist, they would have no power to do so. If all of them gathered against something Allah had not decreed to be, that they try to bring it into existence, they would have no power to do so. The Pen has dried of what will be until the Day of Resurrection.⁶³

Whatever a person has missed, he would have never received. Whatever he received, he would have never missed.⁶⁴

The servant must know that the knowledge of Allah of all that exists in His creation has already preceded. He measured all of that with precise measurement, judgment, and finality. There is nothing to reduce it, nor amend it, nor remove it, nor change it, nor divert it, nor decrease it, nor add to it.⁶⁵

⁶³ "Know that if the nations gathered together to benefit you, they could not benefit you unless Allah has decreed it for you. And if the nations gathered together to harm you, they could not harm you unless Allah has decreed it for you. The pens have been lifted and the pages have dried." (Sunan al-Tirmidhī 2516, *Sahih*)

⁶² "This is an honored Quran, inscribed on a Preserved Tablet." (Sūrat al-Burūj 85:21-22); "Verily, it is We who bring the dead to life and record what they have put forth and what they left behind, and all things We have enumerated in a clear Register." (Sūrat Yā Sīn 36:12)

⁶⁴ "If you were to spend the likes of mount Uhud in gold in the way of Allah, He would not accept it from you until you had faith in all of divine providence, such that you know what you acquire could never miss you, and what you missed you could never acquire, and that if you die upon something other than this, you will enter the Hellfire." (Sunan Ibn Mājah 77, <u>Sahih</u>)

⁶⁵ "For every nation is a specified term. When their time has come, they will not be delayed for even an hour, nor will they precede it." (Sūrat al-A'rāf 7:34)

وذَلِكَ مِنْ عَقْدِ الْإِيمَانِ وَأُصُولِ الْمَعْرِفَةِ وَالِاعْتِرَافِ بِتَوْجِيدِ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى وَرُبُوبِيَّتِهِ كَمَا قَالَ تَعَالَى فِي كَتَابِهِ وَخَلَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ فَقَدَّرَهُ تَقْدِيرًا وَقَالَ تَعَالَى وَكَانَ أَمْرُ اللَّهِ قَدَرًا مَقْدُورًا فَوَيْلُ لِمَنْ صَارَ قَلْبُهُ فِي الْقَدَرِ قَلْبًا سَقِيمًا لَقَدِ الْتَمَسَ بِوَهْمِهِ فِي فَحْصِ الْغَيْبِ سِرًّا كَتِيمًا وَعَادَ بِمَا قَالَ فِيهِ أَفَاكًا أَثِيمًا

All of that is among the beliefs of faith, the fundamentals of gnosis, and the recognition of the oneness of Allah Almighty and His Lordship, as the Almighty said in His book, 'He created all things and measured them with precise measurement,' And the Almighty said, 'The command of Allah is a decisive decree,' Then woe to him whose heart becomes ill regarding providence. He has traversed the path of his delusions in investigating the Unseen, its secrets and hidden aspects. He ends up as a sinful liar due to what he said.

الْعَرْشُ وَالْكُرْسِيُّ

The Throne and the Footstool

وَ الْعَرْشُ وَ الْكُرْسِيُّ حَقُّ

The Throne (al-'arsh) and the Footstool (al-kurs \bar{i}) are true.⁶⁹

وَهُوَ مُسْتَغْنِ عَنِ الْعَرْشِ وَمَا دُونَهُ

He is independent of the Throne and whatever is beneath it.⁷⁰

He encompasses all things and He is above it, and what He has created is incapable of encompassing Him.⁷¹

Allah took Abraham as an intimate friend

⁶⁶ Sūrat al-Furqān 25:2.

⁶⁷ Sūrat al-Aḥzāb 33:38.

⁶⁸ The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, came to us while we were arguing about the divine decree. Then, the Prophet became angry until his face was red, as if a pomegranate were bursting from his cheeks. The Prophet said, "With this I have commanded you? With this I was sent to you? Verily, the people before you were destroyed when they argued over this matter. I am determined for you not to argue over it." (Sunan al-Tirmidhī 2133, *Hasan*)

⁶⁹ "His footstool extends over the heavens and the earth, and their preservation tires Him not, for He is the Most High, the Most Great." (Sūrat al-Baqarah 2:255).

⁷⁰ "Know that Allah is Independent and Praiseworthy." (Sūrat al-Bagarah 2:267)

⁷¹ "To Allah belongs whatever is in the heavens and on the earth, for Allah ever encompasses all things." (Sūrat al-Nisā 4:126)

We say that Allah has taken Abraham, upon him be peace, as an intimate friend⁷² and that He spoke directly to Moses, faithfully, truthfully, and in surrender to Allah.⁷³

Faith in the angels, the revealed books, and the messengers

We have faith in the angels, the Prophets, and the Books revealed to the Messengers. 74 We testify that they were all upon the clear truth.

Those who pray towards Mecca are Muslim believers

وَنُسَمِّي أَهْلَ قِبْلَتِنَا مُسْلِمِينَ مُؤْمِنِينَ مَا دَامُوا بِمَا جَاءَ بِهِ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ مُعْتَرِ فِينَ وَلَهُ بِكُلِّ مَا قَالَهُ وَ أَخْبَرَ مُصِيدِّقِينَ

We name the people who pray towards Mecca (ahl al-qiblah) as 'Muslims' and 'believers' as long as they remain upon what was brought by the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, recognizing and confirming as true everything he said and reported.⁷⁵

We do not speak vainly about Allah, nor do we argue about the religion of Allah.76

وَ لَا نُجَادِلُ فِي الْقُرْ آنِ وَنَشْهَدُ أَنَّهُ كَلَامُ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ نَزَلَ بِهِ الرُّوحُ الْأَمِينُ فَعَلَّمَهُ سَيَّدَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ مُحَمَّدًا صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسِلَّمَ وَهُوَ كَلَامُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى لَا يُسَاوِيهِ شَيْءٌ مِنْ كَلَام الْمَخْلُوقِينَ وَلَا نَقُولُ بِخَلْقِهِ وَلَا نُخَالِفُ حَمَاعَةَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ

⁷⁴ "Whoever disbelieves in Allah, His angels, His Books, His Messengers, and the Last Day has certainly gone far astray." (Sūrat al-Nisā 4:136)

⁷² "Allah took Abraham as an intimate friend." (Sūrat al-Nisā 4:125)

⁷³ "Allah spoke to Moses directly." (Sūrat al-Nisā 4:164)

^{75 &}quot;Whoever prays our prayer, faces our direction of prayer, and eats our slaughtered animals, they are Muslims under the protection of Allah and His Messenger. Thus, do not betray Allah in the matter of His protection." (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 391, <u>Sahih</u>)

76 "I guarantee a house on the outskirts of Paradise for one who leaves arguments even if he is right."

⁽Sunan Abī Dāwūd 4800, Sahih)

We do not dispute over the Quran.⁷⁷ We testify that it is the speech of the Lord of the worlds, sent down by the Trustworthy Spirit (Angel Gabriel), who taught it to the master of the Messengers, Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him. It is the speech of Allah Almighty, in no way equal to the speech of creatures. We do not claim it is His creation, nor do we oppose the united community of Muslims.⁷⁸

We do not excommunicate anyone who prays toward Mecca due to a sin, as long as he does not claim it to be lawful, nor do we say sins do not harm the faith of those who commit them.⁷⁹

We hope that Allah will pardon the good-doers among the believers and admit them into Paradise by His mercy.⁸⁰ We cannot guarantee it for them and we cannot testify that they will be in Paradise. We seek forgiveness for the sinful, we fear for them, yet we do not despair over them.⁸¹

⁷⁷ "Arguing over the Quran is an act of unbelief." (Sunan Abī Dāwūd 4603, <u>Sahih</u>); Al-Munawi commented, "Meaning, one doubts it contains the word of Allah, or indulges the debate over whether it is new or ancient, or bickers over the unclear verses. That leads to denial, persecution, and bloodshed." (Fayd al-Qadīr 6/265 #9187)

⁷⁸ "No doubt, the people of the Book before you split into seventy-two sects and this religion will split into seventy-three sects; seventy-two will be in the Hellfire and one will be in Paradise. It is the united community." (Sunan Abī Dāwūd 4597, *Sahih*)

⁷⁹ The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "Gabriel, upon him be peace, came to me to give the good news that anyone from my nation who dies without associating partners with Allah will enter Paradise." It was said, "Even if he commits adultery and theft?" The Prophet said, "Even if he commits adultery and theft." (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 1237, <u>Sahih</u>); Al-Nawawi comments, "This tradition is a proof for the people of the Sunnah, that those who commit major sins will not remain in the Hellfire forever. If they enter it, they will be taken out and eventually admitted into Paradise." (Sharḥ al-Nawawī 'alá Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 2/97)

⁸⁰ The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "Verily, none of you will enter Paradise by his deeds alone." They said, "Not even you, O Messenger of Allah?" The Prophet said, "Not even me, unless Allah grants me his mercy." (Sahīh al-Bukhārī 6467, *Sahīh*)

⁸¹ Ibn Mas'ud said, "If you see a man among you seduced into a sin, then neither supplicate to Allah against him nor curse him. Rather, supplicate for Allah to save him and to accept his repentance. When we saw a man do good at the end of his life, we would hope for him. When we saw a man do evil at the end of his life, we would fear for him." (al-Tawbah li-Ibn Abī Dunyā 112)

Guarantee or despair (of entering Paradise) both remove one from the religion of Islam.⁸² The way of truth is between them both regarding the people who pray towards Mecca.

No servant is expelled from the faith except by disavowing what made him enter into it.⁸³

الإيمان قول وعمل

Faith is words and actions

Faith consists of affirmation by the tongue and acceptance by the soul.⁸⁴

All of what is authentic from the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, of the Law and clear teachings are true.⁸⁵

Faith is one and its people are equal by default. The virtue of some over others is due to the fear of Allah, righteousness, opposing lowly desires, and adherence to the most important matters.⁸⁶

All believers are allies of the Most Merciful and the noblest of them to Allah are those who are most obedient and who best adhere to the Quran.⁸⁷

^{82 &}quot;Who despairs of the mercy of his Lord except for those astray?" (Sūrat al-Hijr 15:56)

^{83 &}quot;Verily, between a man and idolatry and unbelief is abandoning the prayer." (Saḥīḥ Muslim 82, <u>Sahih</u>)

⁸⁴ "No one testifies that there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah, honestly from the heart, but that Allah will forbid him from entering Hellfire." (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 128, *Sahih*)

⁸⁵ "Verily, there is nothing to bring you closer to Paradise and distance you from Hellfire but that I have commanded you to do it, and there is nothing to bring you closer to Hellfire and distance you from Paradise but that I have forbidden you from doing it." (Shu'ab al-Imān 9891, *Sahih*)

⁸⁶ "O people, We have created you from male and female and made you into communities and tribes that you may know one another. Verily, the most noble of you to Allah is the most righteous of you." (Sūrat al-Hujurāt 49:13)

^{87 &}quot;Verily, only Allah and the righteous believers are my allies." (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 5990, Sahih)

Faith consists of belief in Allah, His angels, His Books, His Messengers, the Last Day, and providence, its good and its evil. The pleasant and unpleasant are both from Allah Almighty.⁸⁸

We have faith in all of that. We make no distinction between any of His Messengers. We accept all of them as true in what they brought.⁸⁹

Those who commit major sins

وَأَهْلُ الْكَبَائِرِ مِنْ أُمَّةِ مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فِي النَّارِ لَا يُخَلَّدُونَ إِذَا مَاتُوا وَهُمْ مُوَجِّدُونَ وَإِنْ لَمْ يَكُونُوا تَائِبِينَ بَعْدَ أَنْ لَقُوا اللَّهَ عَارِفِينَ وَهُمْ فِي مَشِيئَتِهِ وَحُكْمِهِ إِنْ شَاءَ غَفَرَ لَهُمْ وَعَفَا عَنْهُمْ بِفَصْلِهِ كَمَا ذَكَرَ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ فِي كِتَابِهِ وَيَغْفِرُ مَا دُونَ ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ

Those who commit major sins among the nation of Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, may be in Hellfire but will not reside there forever, if they die while they are monotheists, even if they have not repented. 90 After they meet Allah knowing faith, they are subject to His will and His judgment. If He wills, He will forgive them and pardon them by His grace, as mentioned by the Almighty in His book, 'He forgives whatever is less than idolatry for whomever He wills.'91

وَإِنْ شَاءَ عَذَّبَهُمْ فِي النَّارِ بِعَدْلِهِ ثُمَّ يُخْرِجُهُمْ مِنْهَا بِرَحْمَتِهِ وَشَفَاعَةِ الشَّافِعِينَ مِنْ أَهْلِ طَاعَتِهِ ثُمَّ يَبْعَثُهُمْ إِلَى جَنَّتِهِ وَذَلِكَ بِأَنَّ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى تَوَلَّى أَهْلَ مَعْرِفَتِهِ وَلَمْ يَجْعَلْهُمْ فِي الدَّارَيْنِ كَأَهْلِ نَكَرَتِهِ الَّذِينَ خَابُوا مِنْ هِذَايَتِهِ وَلَا يَتِهِ اللَّهُمَّ يَا وَلِيَّ الْإِسْلامِ وَأَهْلِهِ ثَبَتْنَا عَلَى الْإِسْلامِ حَتَّى نَلْقَاكَ بِهِ

If He wills, He will punish them in Hellfire by His justice. 92 Thereafter, He will bring them out of Hellfire by His mercy and the intercession of

⁸⁸ "Faith is to believe in Allah, His angels, his Books, His Messengers, the Last Day, and to believe in providence, its good and its evil." (Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 8, *Sahih*)

⁸⁹ "We believe in Allah and what has been revealed to us and what has been revealed to Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the Tribes, and what was given to Moses and Jesus and what was given to the Prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and we are Muslims surrendering to Him." (Sūrat al-Baqarah 2:136)

⁹⁰ "Some people among those who worshiped Allah alone will be punished in Hellfire until they are coals. Then, the mercy of Allah will reach them and they will be taken out and presented at the gates of Paradise. The people of Paradise will pour water over them and they will grow just as the stubble carried by the stream grows. Then, they will enter Paradise." (Sunan al-Tirmidhī 2597, *Sahih*)

⁹¹ Sūrat al-Nisā 4:116.

⁹² "If You punish them, they are Your servants, but if You forgive them, You alone are Almighty and Wise." (Sūrat al-Mā'idah 5:118)

intercessors among those obedient to Him, then raise them to Paradise. 93 This is because Allah Almighty is the ally of those who recognize Him and He will not deal with them in the two abodes as if they were the people who rejected Him, who failed to follow His guidance and did not earn His guardianship. 94 O Allah, Guardian of Islam and its people, keep us firmly upon Islam until we meet You. 95

We perform prayer behind every Imam who prays towards Mecca, whether righteous or wicked, as well as the funeral prayer over those who have died.⁹⁶

We do not declare any of them to be in Paradise or Hellfire.⁹⁷ We do not accuse them of unbelief, nor idolatry.⁹⁸ The people who pray towards Mecca are not excommunicated, nor accused of hypocrisy, as long as they have not openly demonstrated anything of that. We leave their inner secrets to Allah Almighty.⁹⁹

⁹³ "Allah will admit the people of Paradise into Paradise among whomever He wills, due to His mercy, and He will admit the people of Hellfire into Hellfire, then Allah will say, 'Look for those with faith in their hearts as much as a seed and bring them out.' Then, they will be brought out having been burned and turned into charcoal. They will be cast into the river of life and will sprout just as a seed in the silt is carried away by the flood. Have you not seen that it comes out yellow and entwined?" (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 22, <u>Sahih</u>)
⁹⁴ "Then will We treat the Muslims like the criminals?" (Sūrat al-Qalam 68:35)

⁹⁵ "O Turner of the hearts, affirm my heart upon your religion." (Sunan al-Tirmidhī 3522, <u>Sahih</u>)

⁹⁶ "Perform funeral prayer over whoever says there is no God but Allah. Perform prayer behind whoever says there is no God but Allah." (Sunan al-Dāraquṭnī 1761, <u>Sahih li ghayrihi</u>)

⁹⁷ "Verily, a man may appear to people as doing the deeds of the people of Paradise, yet he is among the people of Hellfire. Verily, a man may appear to people as doing the deeds of the people of Hellfire, yet he is among the people of Paradise." (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 2898, <u>Sahih</u>)

⁹⁸ "A man does not accuse another man of wickedness or unbelief but that it will be turned against him, if his companion is innocent." (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 6045, <u>Sahih</u>)

⁹⁹ Umar ibn al-Khattab said, "Verily, people were judged by revelation in the time of the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, and the revelation has ceased. We only judge now what is manifested outwardly of your deeds. Whoever shows us good, we will trust him and bring him close. It is not for us to judge anything of his inner secrets. Allah will hold him accountable for his inner secrets. Whoever shows us evil, we will never trust him or believe him even if it is said his intentions are good." (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 2641, *Sahih*)

We do not raise the sword against anyone from the nation of Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, except against those whom it is necessary to fight [such as violent rebels and criminals].¹⁰⁰

We do not rebel against our leaders or those in charge of our affairs, even if they are tyrannical. We do not supplicate against them, nor withdraw from obedience to them. We view obedience to them as obedience to Allah Almighty, an obligation, as long as they do not order disobedience to Allah. We supplicate on their behalf for righteousness and wellness. 104

We follow the Sunnah and the majority community, committed to the Sunnah and the majority community. We avoid anomalous opinions, differences, and sectarianism.¹⁰⁵

We love the people of justice and trustworthiness, for love of the people of justice is among the perfection of faith. We hate the people of injustice and treachery. 106

¹⁰⁰ "Whoever raises arms against us is not one of us. Whoever deceives us is not one of us." (Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 101. *Saḥiḥ*)

¹⁰¹ "Whoever sees something from his ruler that he hates, let him be patient. Whoever secedes from the community by as much as a handspan and dies will have died a death of ignorance." (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 7054, *Sahih*)

¹⁰² Shaykh Ibn Uthaymeen said, "It is appropriate for us to supplicate for the people of falsehood that Allah might turn them back from their falsehood to the truth, to benefit themselves and others. This is justice, as opposed to what is done by some of the ignorant. When they see those who are deep in falsehood, they supplicate against them." (Sharḥ al-Kāfiyah al-Shāfiyah 4/416)

¹⁰³ "It is a duty upon a Muslim man to listen and obey authorities, whether he likes it or not, unless they command sinful disobedience. If they command sinful disobedience, then there is no listening or obedience to them." (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 7144, *Sahih*)

¹⁰⁴ Al-Fudayl ibn 'Iyad said, "If I had one supplication to be answered, I would make it for no one but the ruler. If the ruler is righteous, it will lead to the righteousness of the country and the people." (Siyar A'lām al-Nubalā 8/434)

¹⁰⁵ "You must adhere to my Sunnah and the Sunnah of the righteous, guided successors. Hold firmly to it as if biting with your molar teeth. Beware of newly invented matters, for every new matter is an innovation and every innovation is misguidance." (Sunan Abī Dāwūd 4607, *Sahih*)

¹⁰⁶ "Whoever loves for the sake of Allah, hates for the sake of Allah, gives for the sake of Allah, and withholds for the sake of Allah has perfected the faith." (Sunan Abī Dāwūd 4681, <u>Sahih</u>); Al-Azimabadi commented, "That he hates for the sake of Allah does not mean he harms the one he hates. Rather, the hatred is for his unbelief and disobedience." ('Awn al-Ma'būd 12/285)

المسلح على الخفين في السفر والحضر

Wiping over leather socks during travel or residency

وَنَقُولُ اللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ فِيمَا النَّنْبَهَ عَلَيْنَا عِلْمُهُ

We say, 'Allah knows best,' regarding matters the knowledge of which is unclear to us.¹⁰⁷

We accept wiping over leather socks in ablution, for the traveler and the resident, as has come in the narrations. 108

Hajj pilgrimage and jihad will continue until the establishment of the Hour

وَالْحَجُّ وَالْجِهَادُ مَاضِيَانِ مَعَ أُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ بَرِّ هِمْ وَفَاجِرٍ هِمْ إِلَى قِيَامِ السَّاعَةِ لَا يُبْطِلُهُمَا شَيْءٌ وَلَا يَنْقُضُهُهَمَا

Hajj pilgrimage and jihad in the way of Allah are continuous, under those with authority among the Muslims, the righteous and wicked among them, until the establishment of the Hour. Nothing invalidates or rescinds them. ¹⁰⁹

الإيمان بالملائكة

Faith in the angels

وَ نُوْمِنُ بِالْكِرَامِ الْكَاتِبِينَ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ قَدْ جَعَلَهُمْ عَلَيْنَا حَافِظِينَ

We have faith in the noble recording angels, for Allah has appointed them over us as guardians. 110

وَ نُوْمِنُ بِمَلَكِ الْمَوْتِ الْمُوكَلِ بِقَبْضِ أَرْ وَإِحِ الْعَالَمِينَ

¹⁰⁸ "The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, wiped over leather socks and head coverings in ablution." (Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 275, *Sahih*); NOTE: This point of Fiqh is mentioned here because many of the heretical sects denied it was part of the Sunnah.

¹⁰⁷ "Allah and His Messenger know best." (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 7373, *Sahih*)

¹⁰⁹ "Due to Allah from the people is a pilgrimage to the House, for whoever is able to find thereto a way." (Sūrat Ali 'Imrān 3:97); "There is no longer emigration, but rather only jihad and good intentions. When you are called to duty, go forth." (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 3077, *Sahih*)

^{110 &}quot;Man does not utter any word but that with him is an observer prepared." (Sūrat Qaf 50:18)

We have faith in the angel of death charged with seizing the souls of those in the worlds.¹¹¹

عَذَابُ الْقَبْرِ وَنَعِيمُهُ

Punishment in the grave and its blessings

We have faith in the punishment of the grave for those who deserve it and the questioning in the grave by the two angels, Munkar and Nakir, about one's Lord, religion, and prophet, as has come in reports from the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, and from the companions, may Allah be pleased with them.¹¹²

The grave is either one of the meadows of Paradise or one of the pits of Hellfire. 113

الإيمان باليوم الآخر

Faith in the Last Day

وَنُوْمِنُ بِالْبَعْثِ وَجَزَاءِ الْأَعْمَالِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَالْعَرْضِ وَالْحِسَابِ وَقِرَاءَةِ الْكِتَابِ وَالثَّوَابِ وَالْعِقَابِ وَالْعِقَابِ وَالْعِقَابِ وَالْعِقَابِ وَالْعِقَابِ وَالْعِقَابِ وَالْمِيزَانِ

We have faith in the Resurrection and the recompense for actions on the Day of Resurrection, the presentation of deeds, the reckoning, and the reading of the book of deeds, the reward and punishment, the Bridge over Hell (*alsirat*). ¹¹⁴ and the Scale (*al-mizan*). ¹¹⁵

¹¹¹ "The angel of death, who has been entrusted with you, will take you. Then to your Lord you will be returned." (Sūrat al-Sajdah 32:11)

¹¹² "When the deceased is buried in his grave, two black and blue angels come to him. One of them is called Munkar and the other is called Nakir. They will both say: What do you say about this man?" (Sunan al-Tirmidhī 1071, *Jayyid*)

¹¹³ "Verily, the grave is the first stage of the Hereafter. If one is saved from it, whatever comes after will be easier for him. If one is not saved from it, whatever comes after will be harder for him. I have never seen anything more frightening than the grave." (Sunan al-Tirmidhī 2308, *Hasan*)

^{114 &}quot;The weighing of deeds that Day will be the truth. So those whose scales are heavy with good, they will be successful." (Sūrat al-A'rāf 7:8)

¹¹⁵ Abu Sa'id al-Khudri said, "I have come to know that the bridge over Hell is thinner than a hair and sharper than a sword." (Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 183, *Sahih*)

وَالْجَنَّةُ وَالنَّارُ مَخْلُوقَتَانِ لَا تَقْنَيَانِ أَبَدًا وَلَا تَبِيدَانِ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى خَلَقَ الْجَنَّةَ وَالنَّارِ قَبْلَ الْخَلْقِ وَخَلَقَ لَهُمَا أَهْلًا فَمَنْ شَاءَ مِنْهُمْ إِلَى النَّارِ عَدْلًا مِنْهُ وَكُلُّ يَعْمَلُ لِمَا قَدْ فُرِعَ لَهُ وَصَائِرٌ إِلَى مَا خُلِقَ لَهُ وَكُلُّ يَعْمَلُ لِمَا قَدْ فُرِعَ لَهُ وَصَائِرٌ إِلَى مَا خُلِقَ لَهُ

Paradise and Hellfire are two creations that never end, nor perish. ¹¹⁶ For Allah Almighty created Paradise and Hellfire before the rest of creation, then He created people for them. ¹¹⁷ Whoever He wills enters Paradise due to His grace, and whoever He wills enters Hellfire due to His justice. ¹¹⁸ Everyone acts in accordance with what is decreed for him, becoming that for which he was created. ¹¹⁹

وَالْخَيْرُ وَالشَّرُّ مُقَدَّرَانِ عَلَى الْعِبَادِ

Good and evil have both been decreed for the servants. 120

الإستبطاعة تكون مع الفعل

Capability is accompanied by deeds

وَالْاسْتِطَاعَةُ الَّتِي يَجِبُ بِهَا الْفِعْلُ مِنْ نَحْوِ التَّوْفِيقِ الَّذِي لَا يُوصَفُ الْمَخْلُوقُ بِهِ تَكُونُ مَعَ الْفِعْلِ وَأَمَّا الْاسْتِطَاعَةُ مِنْ جِهَةِ الصِّحَةِ وَالْوُسْعِ وَالتَّمْكِينِ وَسَلَامَةِ الْأَلَاتِ فَهِيَ قَبْلَ الْفِعْلِ وَبِهَا يَتَعَلَّقُ الْخِطَابُ وَهُوَ كَمَا قَالَ تَعَالَى لَا يُكَلِّفُ اللَّهُ تَفْسًا إِلَّا وُسْعَهَا

The ability required for an action is from divine facilitation, which cannot be ascribed to a created being, along with the action itself.¹²¹ As for ability from the view of health, capacity, capability, and sound means, it is before the action itself, and what is related to these are addressed, as it was said by the Exalted, 'Allah holds no soul responsible except within its capacity.' ¹²²

^{116 &}quot;When the people of Paradise will be sent to Paradise, and the people of Hellfire will be sent to Hellfire, until they are separated between them. Then, death will be slaughtered and a heavenly caller will announce: O people of Paradise, there is no death! O people of Hellfire, there is no death! For the people of Paradise, it will add joy to their joy, and for the people of Hellfire, it will add grief to their grief." (Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 2850, Sahih)

¹¹⁷ "When Allah created Paradise and Hellfire, He sent Gabriel to Paradise saying: Behold it and what I have prepared therein for its people." (Sunan al-Tirmidhī 2560, *Sahih*)

¹¹⁸ "Allah said to Paradise, 'You are My mercy with which I show mercy to those of My servants whom I will.' Allah said to Hellfire, 'You are My punishment with which I punish those of My servants whom I will, and both of you will be full.'" (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 4850, *Sahih*)

We were sitting with the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, and he said, "There are none among you but that his place in Paradise or his place in Hellfire are decreed." We said, "O Messenger of Allah, shall we not depend on this alone?" The Prophet said, "No, you must work, for all will be facilitated." (Sahīh al-Bukhārī 4945, *Sahīh*)

^{120 &}quot;We tested them with good and evil that perhaps they would return to Allah." (Sūrat al-A'rāf 168)

¹²¹ "While Allah created you and what you do?" (Sūrat al-Ṣaffāt 37:96)

¹²² Sūrat al-Baqarah 2:286.

The actions of the servants are creations of Allah and are earned by the servants. 123

Allah Almighty does not hold them responsible unless they are capable, and they are not capable except for what they are responsible. 124 It is the explanation of the phrase, 'There is no movement or might but by Allah.'125

We say there is no stratagem of anyone, nor transformation of anyone, nor movement of anyone in disobedience to Allah except by enablement from Allah. None has the power to perform obedience to Allah and be firm upon it except by the facilitation of Allah. 126

All things occur by the will of Allah the Exalted, His knowledge, His decree, and His providence. His will overpowers all other wills, and His decree overpowers all other stratagems. He does whatever He wills, and He is never unjust, He will not be questioned about what He does, but they will be questioned. He will not be questioned.

اسْتِجَابَةُ اللَّهِ الدُّعَاءَ

Allah answers supplication

^{123 &}quot;For those their refuge will be the Hellfire because of what they used to earn." (10:8)

¹²⁴ "The pen is lifted from three people: a sleeping person until he awakens, a child until he becomes an adult, and an insane person until he regains his sanity." (Sunan al-Tirmidhī 1423, *Sahih*)

¹²⁵ "Increase your plantings in Paradise, for its water is sweet and its soil is clean. Its plantings are to say: there is no movement or might but in Allah." (al-Mu'jam al-Kabīr 13354, *Hasan*)

¹²⁶ "All praise is due to Allah, by whose favor good deeds are accomplished." (Sunan Ibn Mājah 3803, *Sahih*)

¹²⁷ "Do you not know that Allah knows what is in the heaven and the earth? Verily, that is in a Record. That is easy for Allah." (Sūrat al-Ḥajj 22:70)

^{128 &}quot;We will not be outdone." (Sūrat al-Mudathir 74:41)

¹²⁹ "Allah would never have wronged them, but rather they were wronging themselves." (Sūrat al-Rum 30:9)

¹³⁰ Sūrat al-Anbiyā' 21:23.

In the supplication of the living and their acts of charity are benefits for the dead. 131

Allah Almighty responds to supplications and fulfills needs. 132

He controls all things and nothing has any control over Him.¹³³ None can be independent of Allah for as much as the blink of an eye. Whoever considers himself independent of Allah for as much as the blink of an eye has committed unbelief and has become among of the people of perdition.¹³⁴

He becomes angered and becomes pleased, yet not like anyone else besides Him. 135

الثَّنَاءُ عَلَى الصَّحَابَةِ

Praise for the Companions

وَنُحِبُّ أَصْحَابَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَلَا نُفَرِّطُ فِي حُبِّ أَحَدٍ مِنْهُمْ وَلَا نَتَبَرَّ أُ مِنْ أَحَدٍ مِنْهُمْ وَنُبْغِضُ مَنْ يُبْغِضُهُمْ وَبِغَيْرِ الْخَيْرِ يَذْكُرُهُمْ وَلَا نَذْكُرُهُمْ إِلَّا بِخَيْرٍ وَحُبُّهُمْ دِينٌ وَإِيمَانٌ وَإِحْسَانٌ وَبُغْضُهُمْ كُفْرٌ وَنِفَاقٌ وَطُغْيَانٌ

We love the companions of the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him. We do not exaggerate in our love for any of them, nor do we disown any of them. ¹³⁶ We hate those who hate them or who mention them

^{131 &}quot;When the human being dies, his deeds end except for three: ongoing charity, beneficial knowledge, or a righteous child who prays for him." (Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 1631, *Sahih*); A man came to the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, and he said, "O Messenger of Allah, my mother died suddenly without writing a will. I think if she could speak, she would give in charity. Will she have a reward if I give charity on her behalf?" The Prophet said, "Yes." (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 1388, *Sahih*)

¹³² "There is no Muslim who calls upon Allah, without sin or cutting family ties, but that Allah will give him one of three answers: He will quickly fulfill his supplication, He will store it for him in the Hereafter, or He will divert an evil from him similar to it." (Musnad Ahmad 11133, *Sahih*)

^{133 &}quot;Blessed is He in whose hand is the dominion, for He has power over all things." (Sūrat al-Mulk 67:1)

¹³⁴ "Nay! Verily, man transgresses because he considers himself independent." (Surat al-'Alaq 96:5-6) ¹³⁵ "That is because they followed that which angered Allah, and hated that which pleased Him, so He made their deeds fruitless." (Sūrat Muḥammad 47:28)

¹³⁶ Imam Ahmad said, "Do not exaggerate in anything, even love and hatred." (al-Ādāb al-Shar'īyah 1/52)

without good, for we do not mention them except with good. ¹³⁷ Love for them is a part of religion, faith, and spiritual excellence, and hatred for them is unbelief, hypocrisy, and transgression. ¹³⁸

وَنُثْبِتُ الْخِلَافَةَ بَعْدَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَوَّ لَا لِأَبِي بَكْرٍ الصِّدِيّقِ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ تَفْضِيلًا لَهُ وَتَقْدِيمًا عَلَى جَمِيعِ الْأُمَّةِ ثُمَّ لِعُمَرَ بْنِ الْخَطَّابِ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ ثُمَّ لِعُلِّيِ بْنِ أَبِي طَالِبٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ وَهُمُ الْخُلَفَاءُ الرَّ اشِدُونَ وَالْأَئِمَّةُ الْمَهْدِيُّونَ

We affirm the Caliphate after the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, first went to Abu Bakr al-Ṣiddiq, may Allah be pleased with him, having virtue and priority over all others in the Muslim nation. Then, it was for 'Umar ibn al-Khattab, may Allah be pleased with him. Then, it was for 'Uthman, may Allah be pleased with him. Then, it was for 'Ali ibn Abi Ṭalib, may Allah be pleased with him. They are the righteous Caliphs and guided leaders.

وَأَنَّ الْعَشَرَةَ الَّذِينَ سَمَّاهُمْ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَبَشَّرَهُمْ بِالْجَنَّةِ نَشْهَدُ لَهُمْ بِالْجَنَّةِ عَلَى مَا شَهِدَ لَهُمْ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَقَوْلُهُ الْحَقُّ وَهُمْ أَبُو بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرُ وَعُثْمَانُ وَعَلِيٌّ وَطِلْحَةُ وَالزُّبَيْرُ وَسَعْدٌ وَسَعِيدٌ وَعَبْدُ الرَّحْمَنِ بْنُ عَوْفٍ وَأَبُو عُبَيْدَةَ بْنُ الْجَرَّاحِ وَهُوَ أَمِينُ هَذِهِ الْأُمَّةِ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ

The ten who were named by the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, as being promised with Paradise, we testify that they are in Paradise due to what was testified for them by the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, and his statements are true. They are Abu Bakr, 'Umar, 'Uthman, 'Ali, Talhah, Al-Zubayr, Sa'd, Sa'id, 'Abd al-Raḥmān ibn 'Awf, and Abu 'Ubaydah ibn Al-Jarraḥ who was the trustee of this nation, may Allah be pleased with them all.¹⁴²

¹³⁷ "If my companions are mentioned, be restrained." (al-Mu'jam al-Kabīr 10302, <u>Sahih</u>)

¹³⁸ "None loves the Ansar but a believer, and none hates them but a hypocrite. Whoever loves them, Allah will love him. Whoever hates them, Allah will hate him." (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 3783, <u>Sahih</u>)

¹³⁹ The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, became ill and when his condition was critical, he said, "Tell Abu Bakr to lead the people in prayer." (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 678, *Sahih*)

¹⁴⁰ "Before you were nations with divinely inspired people. If such a person were in my nation, it would surely be Umar." (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 3689, *Sahih*)

¹⁴¹ "The most merciful of my nation is Abu Bakr. The strictest of them in the religion of Allah is Umar. The most sincerely conscientious of them is Uthman. The wisest of them in judgment is Ali ibn Abi Talib." (Sunan Ibn Mājah 154, *Sahih*)

¹⁴² "Abu Bakr is in Paradise. Umar is in Paradise. Uthman is in Paradise. Ali is in Paradise. Talhah is in Paradise. Al-Zubayr is in Paradise. Abdur Rahman ibn 'Awf is in Paradise. Sa'd is in Paradise. Sa'id is in Paradise. Abu 'Ubaydah ibn al-Jarrah is in Paradise." (Sunan al-Tirmidhī 3747, <u>Sahih</u>)

Whoever speaks well of the companions of the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, and his wives, pure of any defilement, and his sanctified progeny, he is innocent of any hypocrisy. 143

The scholars of the first generation who preceded us and those after them among the successors, the people of virtue, tradition, understanding, and insight, they are not mentioned but in a gracious way. Whoever mentions them in an evil way, he is on a path different from their path. 145

No virtue of the saints over the prophets

We do not prefer any of the saints of this nation over any of the prophets, upon them be peace. We say that a single prophet is better than all the saints put together. 146

We have faith in what has come of their miracles and what has been authenticated in their narrations from trustworthy narrators. 147

¹⁴³ "Love Allah for the blessings by which He nourishes you, love me for the love of Allah, and love the people of my house for the love of me." (Sunan al-Tirmidhī 3789, <u>Hasan</u>)

¹⁴⁴ "The best people are those of my generation, then those who come after them, then those who come after them. Then, there will come people after them whose testimony precedes their oaths and their oaths precede their testimony." (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 6429, <u>Sahih</u>)

¹⁴⁵ "The scholars are the inheritors of the Prophets. They do not leave behind gold or silver coins, but rather they leave behind knowledge. Whoever has taken hold of it has been given an abundant share." (Sunan Abī Dāwūd 3641, *Sahih*)

¹⁴⁶ It was said, "O Messenger of Allah, which people are tested most severely?" The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "They are the prophets, then the next best, then the next best. A man is put to trial according to his religion. If he is firm in his religion, his trials will be more severe. If he is weak in his religion, he is put to trial according to his strength in religion. The servant will continue to be put to trial until he is left walking upon the earth without any sin." (Sunan al-Tirmidhī 2398, <u>Sahih</u>)
¹⁴⁷ Ibn Taymiyyah said, "The miracles of the saints are true by the consensus of the Imams of Islam, Sunnah, and the united community. They are included in the Quran in several places, the authentic

الْإِيمَانُ بِأَشْرَاطِ السَّاعَةِ

Faith in the signs of the Hour

We have faith in the signs of the Hour, such as the appearance of the False Messiah (*al-Dajjal*), ¹⁴⁸ and the descent from the heavens of Jesus the son of Mary, upon him be peace. ¹⁴⁹ We have faith in the rising of the sun from the West¹⁵⁰ and in the emergence of the Beast from its place in the earth. ¹⁵¹

كَذَبَ الْكَاهِنُ وَالْعَرَّافُ

Falsehood of soothsayers and fortunetellers

We do not believe in soothsayers and fortunetellers, nor whoever claims anything against the Book, the Sunnah, and the consensus of the Muslim nation. 152

الْجَمَاعَةُ حُقٌّ وَالْفُرْقَةُ زَيْغٌ

Unity upon the truth and the deviation of sectarianism

We regard unity as truth and what is right, and sectarianism as deviation and punishment.¹⁵³

prophetic narrations, and widespread reports from the companions, the successors, and others." (Mukhtaṣar al-Fatāwá al-Misrīyah 1/600)

¹⁴⁸ "Nothing between the creation of Adam until the establishment of the Hour is a greater tribulation than the affair of the False Messiah." (Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 2946, *Sahih*)

¹⁴⁹ "By Allah, the son of Mary will descend as a just ruler. He will abolish the cross, kill the swine, and annul the tribute, but he will leave the she-camel such that no one collects from it. He will cause rancor, hatred, and envy to disappear, and he will call people to give their wealth in charity but no one will need it." (Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 155, *Sahih*)

¹⁵⁰ "The Hour will not be established until the sun rises from the West." (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 4636, <u>Sahih</u>) ¹⁵¹ "The Beast will emerge and place a mark on the faces of the people. They will be plentiful among you such that a man will purchase a camel and it will be said: From whom did you buy it? He will say: I bought it from one of those with the mark." (Musnad Aḥmad 22309, <u>Sahih</u>)

¹⁵² Some people asked the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, about soothsayers. The Prophet said, "They are upon nothing." They said, "O Messenger of Allah, sometimes they speak about things that come true." The Prophet said, "Those are the words snatched by the jinn, who whisper it into the ears of their friends and it is mixed with more than one hundred lies." (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 6213, <u>Sahih</u>)
153 "Hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided." (Sūrat Ali 'Imrān 3:103)

وَدِينُ اللَّهِ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَالسَّمَاءِ وَاحِدٌ وَهُوَ دِينُ الْإِسْلَامِ قَالَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ وَقَالَ تَعَالَى وَرَضِيتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا وَهُوَ بَيْنَ الْغُلُوّ وَ التَّقْصِيرِ وَبَيْنَ التَّشْبِيهِ وَالتَّعْطِيلِ وَبَيْنَ الْجَبْرِ وَالْقَدَرِ وَبَيْنَ الْأَمْنِ وَالْإِيَاسِ

The religion of Allah on earth and in the heavens is one, and it is the religion of Islam. Allah Almighty said, 'Verily, the religion with Allah is Islam,' ¹⁵⁴ And the Almighty said, 'I am pleased with Islam as your religion.' ¹⁵⁵ It is between exaggeration and belittlement, between comparing the attributes of Allah to creation and negating them, between fatalism and unrestricted free will, and between guarantee and despair. ¹⁵⁶

فَهَذَا دِينُنَا وَاعْتِقَادُنَا ظَاهِرًا وَبَاطِنًا وَنَحْنُ بَرَاءٌ إِلَى اللّهِ تَعَالَى مِنْ كُلِّ مَنْ خَالَفَ الَّذِي ذَكَرْنَاهُ وَبَيَّنَاهُ وَبَيَّنَاهُ وَبَيَّنَاهُ وَبَيَّنَاهُ وَيَعْصِمَنَا مِنَ الْأَهْوَاءِ الْمُخْتَلِفَةِ وَالْآرَاءِ الْمُتَفَرِّقَةِ وَنَسْأَلُ اللّهَ تَعَالَى أَنْ يُثَبِّتَنَا عَلَى الْإِيمَانِ وَيَخْتِمَ لَنَا بِهِ وَيَعْصِمَنَا مِنَ الْأَهْوَاءِ الْمُخْتَرِفَةِ وَالْمُعْتَزِلَةِ وَالْجَهْمِيَّةِ وَالْجَبْرِيَّةِ وَالْفَرَرِيَّةِ وَعَيْرِهِمْ مِنَ الَّذِينَ خَالَفُوا الْمَنَاعِقَةُ وَتَلْفُوا الْجَمَاعَةُ وَحَالَفُوا الْخَمَاعَةُ وَحَالَفُوا الْخَمَاعَةُ وَحَالَفُوا الْخَمَاعَةُ وَالْمُعْتَزِلَةِ وَالْجَهْمِيَّةِ وَالْجَهْرِيَّةِ وَأَرْدِيَاءُ وَبِاللّهِ الْمُعْتَزِلَةً وَنَعْنُ مِنْهُمْ بَرَاءٌ وَهُمْ عِنْدَنَا ضَلَالًا وَأَرْدِيَاءُ وَبِاللّهِ الْعَصْمَةُ وَالتَّوْفِيقُ

This is our religion and what we take as our creed, inwardly and outwardly. We disown before Allah Almighty all those who oppose what we have mentioned and clarified. We ask Allah the Exalted to keep us firm upon faith, seal our lives with it, and to protect us from various desires, sectarian opinions, and the doctrines of rejection, such as anthropomorphists (*al-Mushabbihah*), 157 the rationalists (*al-Mu'tazilah*), 158 those who deny the attributes of Allah (*al-Jahmiyyah*), 159 the fatalists (*al-Jabriyah*), 160 the deniers of providence (*al-Qadariyah*), 161 and others who oppose the united community and have made a pact of misguidance. We are innocent of them, for they are, to us, astray and ruined. And in Allah alone is protection and guidance.

¹⁵⁴ Sūrat Ali 'Imrān 3:19.

¹⁵⁵ Sūrat al-Mā'idah 5:3.

Hudhayfah ibn al-Yaman said, "O townspeople, remain upright and you will have taken a great lead, but if you swerve right or left, you will have been led far astray." (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 7282, Sahih)

¹⁵⁷ This sect and theologians like them ascribe the attributes of created beings to Allah.

¹⁵⁸ This sect gave prominence to rational philosophy, such as found in ancient Greece, which led them to deny a number of core tenets of Islam.

¹⁵⁹ This sect denied a number of the attributes of Allah, among other false beliefs.

¹⁶⁰ This sect denied the free will of human beings and claimed Allah coerces us to perform all of our deeds.

¹⁶¹ This sect denied the divine providence of Allah and claimed He has no control over our actions.