



جمعية وقت الحوار
للدعوة الإلكترونية

تصريح رقم 5031

The Approach of the Learned Muslims to New Muslims

Level One

First Topic

Pillars of Worship in Islam

Introduction

Islam is a comprehensive religion that manages the life of people in every aspect. In order to achieve such an integrated system Allah Almighty placed five core pillars of worship on which the religion of Islam is based on. These pillars are what a Muslim basis his/her faith and religious activities on. The pillars of worship in Islam consist of the acts of worship that every Muslim must perform as part of their commitment to Islam.

In this research, we will look into the five pillars of worship in Islam in detail and explain their roles in building a balanced Islamic personality.



First Pillar

The Testimonies of Faith

The first foundation of Islam

The first pillar of worship in Islam is the two Testimonies of Faith, which consist of testifying that there is no true God worthy of worship but Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah. So, whoever wishes to enter the religion of Islam must say the two Testimonies of Faith with honesty, sincerity, certainty, and love – after understanding their meanings, accepting them, and submitting to them openly and in one's self.

Testifying that **“there is no true God worthy of worship but Allah”** means stating that Allah Almighty is One and rejecting any partner with Allah, as no one or nothing deserves to be worshipped except for Allah. Allah Almighty says: **(although they were commanded only to worship Allah with sincere devotion to Him, being inclined to the true faith)** [Al-Bayannah: 5].

As for the testimony that “Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah”, this means believing that Muhammad, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, is the final Prophet sent by Allah to guide all humankind. This testimony instructs Muslims to follow the sunnah of Prophet Muhammad, and to act according to the Prophet's teachings. Prophet Muhammad, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, said: **(Islam is built on five pillars: the testimony that there is no true God worthy of worship except Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of God)** [Al-Bukhari].



Second Pillar

Prayer

A link between a slave and his Lord

Prayer is the second pillar of worship in Islam, and is the greatest pillar of worship in Islam after The Testimonies of Faith. Prophet Muhammad, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, had said: (Prayer is the backbone of religion). Prayer represents a direct relationship between the slave and his Creator. During prayer a slave stands in front of Allah Almighty five times a day, fearful and begging Allah for his needs. Allah says: **(...Indeed, prayer is prescribed for the believers at specific times)** [An-Nisa: 103].

Prayer is not simply a tradition, instead it is a way to establish mental and physical happiness. Prayer, is a daily reminder for a Muslim to direct his/her heart and mind towards Allah Almighty. It keeps the continuous spiritual communication between a human and his Lord, it teaches a Muslim order and time management, and encourages him to stay away from sins as Allah Almighty has stated: **(...for indeed prayer restrains one from immoral acts and wickedness)** [Al-Ankabut: 45].

From the objectives of prayer: It removes sins and mistakes committed by people on a daily basis. Prophet Muhammad, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, said: **(Have you not seen if there was a river at one of your doors and one of you bathed in it five times a day, would any dirt remain on him?)** They said: "No dirt would remain on him." He said: "That is like the five daily prayers; Allah wipes away sins with them) [Al-Bukhari & Muslim].



Third Pillar

Zakat

Purifying one's money and one's self

Zakat is the third pillar of worship in Islam. It is a financial obligation in which a Muslim must give away a certain percentage of his/her belongings to poor and needy people in general. Zakat isn't merely a tax, instead it is a means to purify one's self from greed, stinginess, and sins. Zakat also increases the feel of a Muslim towards helping others, and purifies one's self from the illness of loving this worldly life. Allah Almighty says: **(Take charity from their wealth [O Prophet] to cleanse and purify them)** [At-

Tawbah: 103].

Zakat helps towards accomplishing a social balance, as it helps the poor cover their needs, and decreases the wealth gap between rich and poor. Through Zakat a Muslim feels responsibility towards the community, and wealth becomes a means for good and blessings.

Zakat is not an optional act, instead is a compulsory act of worship for whoever has accumulated a certain amount of wealth for an entire year. The Prophet Muhammad, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, has stated: **(Whoever pays zakat on his wealth, his evil will be removed from him)** [Ibn Majah and authenticated by Al-Albani].

A glass of water, an alarm clock, and dates on a table.

Fourth Pillar

Fasting

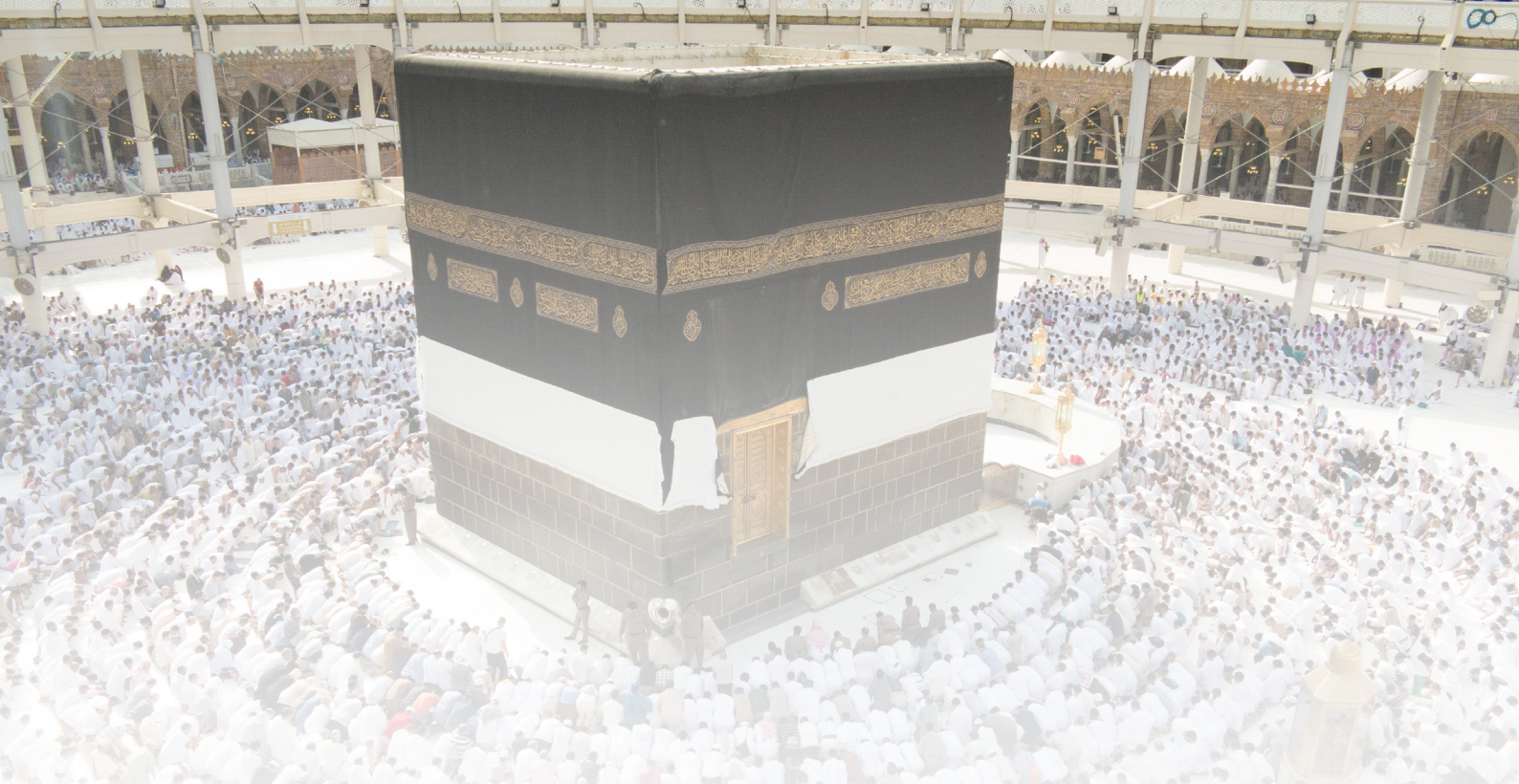
Withholding one's self from food, drink, and all acts that break one's fast, in order to get closer to Allah.

Fasting is the fourth pillar of worship in Islam; it occurs in the Holy Month of Ramadan. Fasting is not simply not eating and drinking. Fasting, is a spiritual and bodily training that aims towards fear of Allah (piety) and knowing that Allah Almighty is always watchful, behaving one's self, and strengthening resolve. Allah Almighty says: **(O you who believe, fasting is prescribed upon you as it was prescribed upon those who were before you, so that you may become righteous)** [Al-Baqrah: 183].

Through fasting, a Muslim will feel the suffering of the poor and needy, will learn patience and how to control his lusts, and will be reminded and feel Allah's blessings on him – as blessings can be forgotten; and when blessings become missing then one will know the value of these blessings. During fasting people withhold from eating, drinking, and intercourse – and this withholding makes one appreciate these blessings and thank Allah for them.

Fasting is an opportunity to repent and become closer to Allah, as during it a Muslim increases his acts of worship and obedience. Prophet Muhammad, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, said: **(Whoever fasts Ramadan out of faith and in the hope of reward, his previous sins will be forgiven)** [Al-Bukhari].

For a Muslim, fasting accomplishes purity of the soul and body, and increases the feel of solidarity with society through participation in this group act of worship.



Fifth Pillar

Hajj

Travel to Mecca and the performing of certain acts of worship, during certain times.

The Hajj is the fifth pillar of worship in Islam. It is compulsory for every sane, mature, Muslim who is capable of performing this great act of worship. Allah Almighty says: **(And proclaim the pilgrimage to all people; they will come to you on foot and on every lean camel from every distant pathway).**

[Al-Hajj: 27].

Hajj establishes and teaches monotheism and the worship of Allah Almighty alone. Hajj is a spiritual journey that brings together Muslims from all parts of the world at a single location, in order to perform rituals that express the unity of the Muslim Nation and their humility in front of Allah Almighty. During the Hajj Muslims wear "ihram" clothing that symbolizes equality between them, for there is no difference between rich and poor, nor between great and low-class.

Hajj, brings a Muslim back to the pure natural inclination, renews his relationship with his Lord, and is a chance for repentance and to get rid of sins. The Prophet Muhammad, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, said: **(Whoever performs Hajj and does not utter obscenities or commit sins will return as on the day his mother bore him)** [Al-Bukhari].



Conclusion

Are the core on which the religion of Islam is based on; these pillars manage the life of a Muslim, connect him with his Creator, and establish a balance for him in the life of this world and in the hereafter.

Through the Testimonies of Faith, a Muslim confirms, monotheism, his belief in Allah Almighty, and belief in the message of Prophet Muhammad, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him.

While through prayer, zakat, fasting and Hajj, practical and spiritual commitment to Islam become evident.

These pillars are not merely individual acts of worship, instead are an integrated system that builds a strong and unified community, and establishes justice and solidarity between its members.

Second Topic

Pillars of Belief in Islam

Introduction

Belief is the basis of the religion of Islam; it is what determines the relationship between a human and his Lord, and between a human and the world around him. Belief in Islam is not only to believe with one's heart, but is an integrated system that combines between acknowledging, belief without doubt, acceptance, and actions accordingly. Definition of Belief: The total belief - without any doubt, with acknowledgment, peace of mind, acceptance and submission - in all that was informed by Allah and by His Messenger.

To further explain the meaning of Belief; angel Gabriel came down to the Prophet, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, and asked the Prophet about Belief, so the Prophet informed him about the pillars of faith. It was narrated by Umar Ibn al-Khattab, may Allah be pleased with him, that Gabriel said: **(Tell me about faith?" The Prophet, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, said: "It is to believe in Allah, His angels, His books, His messengers, the Last Day, and to believe in destiny, both good and bad)** [Muslim].

Allah Almighty has established these six pillars of Belief in Islam, and has made it obligatory for every Muslim to believe in them, to be reassured by them, accept them, and to follow their requirements. These pillars constitute the Islamic creed from which a Muslim builds his relationship with his Creator and with the universe.

In this research we shall look into these six pillars of Belief in detail.



First Pillar

Belief in Allah Almighty

is the belief in His presence, His Lordship, His divinity, and His Names and Attributes.

The first pillar of Belief in Islam is belief in Allah Almighty, which is the basis upon which Islamic creed is built on. Belief in Allah means belief without any doubt that Allah exists and is alive, that He is the Creator Who manages all affairs, and that He is the Indivisible, The One, Who has no partner with him. Allah Almighty says: **(Say: "He is Allah, the One; Allah, the Eternal Refuge)** [Al-Ikhlās: 1-2].

Belief in Allah requires a Muslim to unify Him in His actions, attributes, and Names, and in the actions of worship to Him. This includes the belief that Allah is the Creator, the Sustainer, the Giver of Life, the Bringer of Death, and that He is characterized by the attributes of perfection and majesty. This faith is manifested in directing worship and obedience to Allah alone, without associating anyone or anything with Him. Belief in Allah frees a Muslim from the slavery of humans and wealth, and makes his heart reassured that Allah is the ruler and controller of everything.

Belief in Allah is a key pillar of the remaining pillars of belief in Islam; and it is the first and most important pillar. When you believe in Allah Almighty, in His existence, and in His control over all your affairs in this world, you believe in the Messengers, peace be upon them, whom Allah chose from among the people of earth in order to deliver His message to all of humankind, to show them the true path, teach them the teachings of their religion, inform them what they have to do in this life and what awaits them in the Hereafter.

Once you believe in Allah and His Messengers, by default you will believe in the messages of the Messengers, which includes mention of the angels, Holy Books, and the Day of Resurrection. And once you believe in Allah, you believe that Allah is the controller of your destiny in this life, and that destiny good and bad is all from Allah Almighty.



Second Pillar

Belief in the angels

The second pillar of Belief in Islam is belief in the angels. Angels are creations made out of light, that were created by Allah to obey Him, and to carry out His orders. Allah Almighty says: **(...who never disobey whatever Allah commands and do whatever they are commanded)** [At-Tahrim:6].

Islamic texts mention that angels are beautiful, great creatures created from light, created from light, neither mentioned as male or female, having wings, never getting bored or tired of mentioning or worshipping Allah Almighty, and not needing food nor drink. Allah has also given the angels the ability to appear as human beings. Angels are so many that only Allah knows their number, and they differ in how they look and in their rank – they are not all on the same rank.

As for the description of their duties, Islamic texts have mentioned that, some of them have been created only for the purpose of worshipping Allah, while some of them have been given the duty of carrying Allah's throne, while others have been ordered to inform Prophets about Allah's message, while some are the guardians of Paradise, and others the guardians of Hell, while some of them seek out gatherings of remembrance and knowledge, while some of them are instructed to extract people's souls, and some of them are ordered to carry out duties related to mountains, and likewise.

Belief in the angels makes a Muslim acknowledge that there are creatures that we cannot see and that obey Allah's commands. This continuously reminds one of Allah Almighty's greatness, and His absolute ability to create what we cannot see nor realize with our limited senses.



Third Pillar

Belief in the Heavenly Books

Messages of guidance

The third pillar of Belief in Islam is belief in the heavenly Books that Allah sent down to guide humanity. These Books contain Allah's messages to the Prophets sent to their peoples and instruct people to worship Allah and follow His orders. Allah Almighty says: **(We have sent Our messengers with clear proofs, and sent down with them the Scripture and the criteria of justice)** [Al-Hadid 25].

The heavenly Books that Muslims believe in include the Torah, the Injeel (**Gospel**), AlZaboor, AlSuhuf, and the Holy Qur'an - which is the last and most complete of the Holy Books, and is the final message sent as guidance to all of humankind.

Belief in the heavenly Books increases a Muslim's understanding of the history of revelation, and makes him realize that Allah sent down in every time period what suited that era from Holy Books, so that people could be guided to the straight path.



Fourth Pillar

Belief in Messengers

The guiders of this world

The fourth pillar of Belief in Islam is the belief in the Messengers. Prophets and Messengers were chosen by Allah Almighty to deliver His messages to their people and advise them to worship Allah.

Islam is the religion of all Prophets. Allah Almighty says: (The true religion with Allah is Islam) [Al-Imran: 19], and says: **(Indeed, We sent to every community a messenger, [saying], "Worship Allah and shun false gods)** [An-Nahl: 36].

Belief in the Messengers includes, the belief that the Messengers were humans chosen by Allah to deliver Allah's message to people and inform them that they could not cause any good nor harm to themselves without Allah's permission, and that they (Messengers) did not make any mistakes when it came to conveying Allah's messages. And from among the Messengers that must be believed in: Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad peace be upon them; as well as all Messengers mentioned by Allah in the Qur'an.



Fifth Pillar

Belief in the Last Day

Belief in the Last Day is the fifth pillar of Belief in Islam. The Last Day refers to the Day of Resurrection in which Allah will resurrect all His slaves and judge them.

Allah Almighty says: **(So whoever does an atom's weight of good will see it, and whoever does an atom's weight of evil will see it)** [Az-Zalzalah: 7-8].

Belief in the Last Day requires a Muslim to believe that the world of this life is not the end, rather there is another life after death, as Allah will resurrect all people to judge them on their deeds. Whoever believed in Allah and obeyed Him will enter Paradise forever and will be blessed there forever, and whoever did not believe in Allah will enter Hell forever.

This belief encourages a Muslim to act well in this life, as reward in the next life is based on every act done in this life – good or bad. It also enhances the sense of responsibility, and performing good deeds.



Sixth Pillar

Belief in Destiny

Belief in destiny, good and bad, is the sixth and last pillar of Belief in Islam. Means that Allah has foreknowledge, decreed, and created all that happens – good or bad – in accordance with His wisdom that would happen in the universe, and that everything that happens in one's life from good or bad is with the knowledge of Allah.

Allah Almighty mentions: **(We have surely created everything in a determined measure)** [Al-Qamar: 49].

Belief in destiny requires from a Muslim to accept Allah's will and destiny – regardless if what has happened is good or a test. Belief in destiny teaches a Muslim to accept Allah's will, and gives him peace of mind by knowing that all that happens is for a divine wisdom – even if a person did not realize it at the time.

However, belief in destiny does not mean that one should surrender to certain circumstances or to leave one's work, on the contrary a Muslim should put in effort and work – while having certainty that results are in Allah's Hands alone. Prophet Muhammad, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, said: **(Be keen on what benefits you and seek help from Allah, and do not give up)** [Muslim].



Conclusion

The six pillars of Belief in Islam are the foundation upon which a Muslim's faith is built.

Belief in Allah, the angels, the heavenly Books, Messengers, the Last Day, and destiny are what cause a Muslim to live a balanced life full of calm and certainty in the mercy and justice of Allah.

These pillars cause a Muslim to be more aware of his place in the universe, and encourage him to follow moral values and perform good deeds – in order to win Allah's pleasure in this life and in the hereafter.

Third Topic

The two Testimonies of Faith and their meaning

Introduction

The Testimonies of Faith are the first pillars of worship in Islam, and are the basis upon which someone enters the religion of Islam.

The Testimonies of Faith consist of two great parts: Testifying that there is no true God worthy of worship but Allah, and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.

This Testimony is not merely words uttered, but a full commitment to their meanings, instead is a full commitment to its meanings and implications.

The Testimonies of Faith are considered the essence of the Islamic creed; they express the Oneness of Allah and the belief in the prophethood of Muhammad, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him.

In this research we will talk about the meaning of the Testimonies of Faith, and their importance in the life of a Muslim.

The background image shows two men in white thobes and black ghutras performing prayer in a mosque. They are standing in front of a large window with a wooden frame. The man in the foreground is looking down, and the man behind him is also looking down. The scene is brightly lit by natural light from the window.

THE MEANING OF MONOTHEISM "TAWHEED"

Testimony that there is no true God worthy of worship but Allah

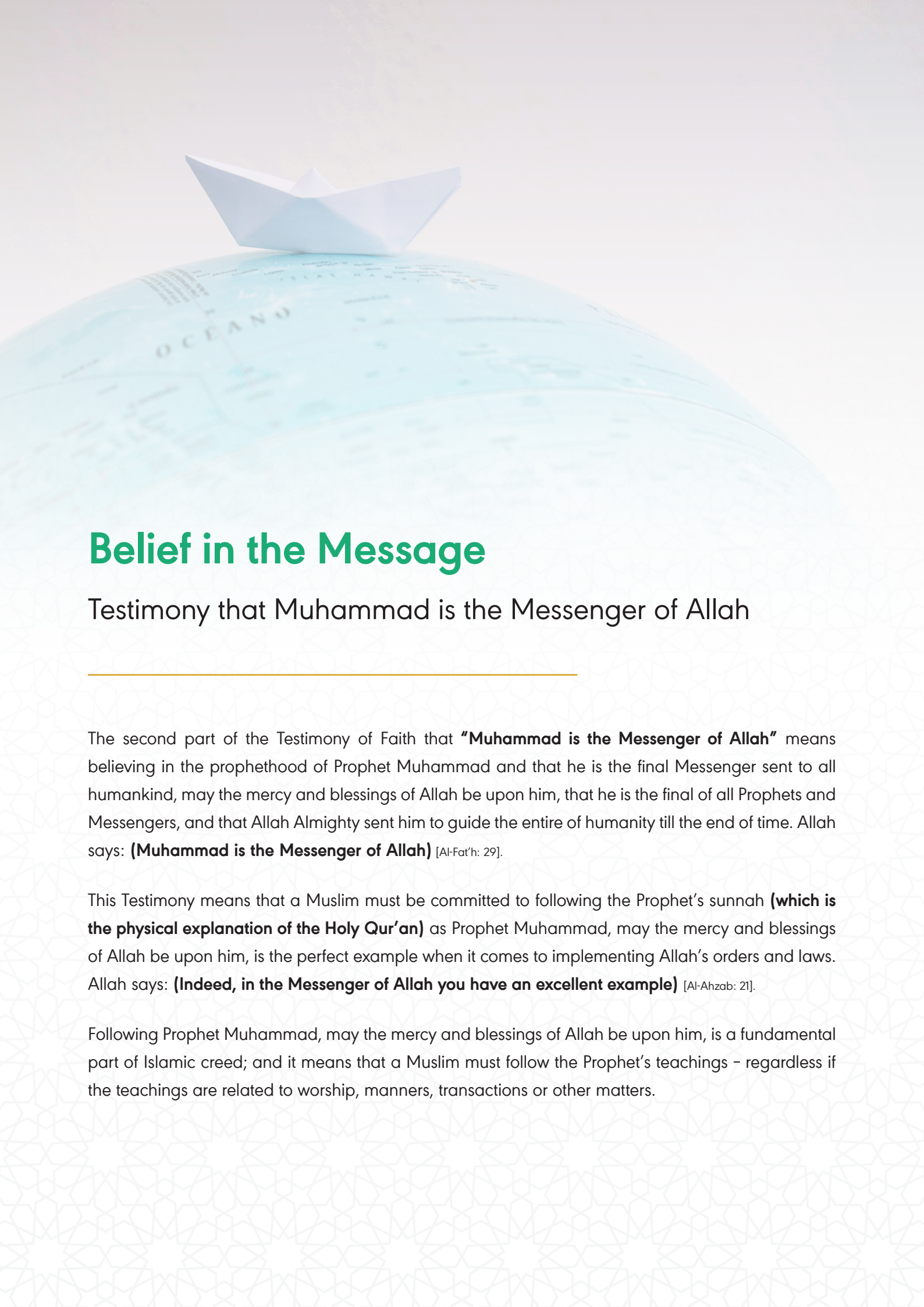
Testifying that **"there is no true God worthy of worship but Allah"** is the first part of the Testimonies of Faith. It means acknowledging the Oneness of Allah Almighty, and that nothing or no one is worthy of worship except Him. This testimony simplifies the Islamic creed in a few words, however, it carries a great meaning. Allah Almighty says: **(And your god is one God. None has the right to be worshiped except Him – the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful)** [Al-Baqrah: 163].

Testifying that **"there is no true God worthy of worship but Allah"** means that a Muslim acknowledges that there is no Creator Who manages the affairs of the universe except for Allah, and that no one or nothing is worthy of worship except for Him.

The Testimony of Faith negates all types of polytheism, whether that includes worship of idols, humans, or any other creature. Allah Almighty has said: **(Say: "He is Allah, the One; Allah, the Eternal Refuge. He neither begets nor is He begotten, and there is none comparable to Him.")** [Al-Ikhlās: 1-4].

It also negates worshipping of one's desires **(which in turn helps one sincerely be a slave to Allah)** and negates any other associate with Allah – even the desires of the slave himself that go against Allah's commands. Allah Almighty has warned against this, when He said: **(Have you seen the one who took his whims as his god, and Allah caused him to stray despite having knowledge, and sealed up his hearing and heart, and put a cover over his sight? Who can guide him after Allah? Will you not then take heed?)** [Al-Jathiyah: 23].

The Testimonies of Faith make a Muslim sincerely turn to Allah alone in every aspect of life, whether in worship, work, or manners.



Belief in the Message

Testimony that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah

The second part of the Testimony of Faith that **"Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah"** means believing in the prophethood of Prophet Muhammad and that he is the final Messenger sent to all humankind, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, that he is the final of all Prophets and Messengers, and that Allah Almighty sent him to guide the entire of humanity till the end of time. Allah says: **(Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah)** [Al-Fat'h: 29].

This Testimony means that a Muslim must be committed to following the Prophet's sunnah **(which is the physical explanation of the Holy Qur'an)** as Prophet Muhammad, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, is the perfect example when it comes to implementing Allah's orders and laws. Allah says: **(Indeed, in the Messenger of Allah you have an excellent example)** [Al-Ahzab: 21].

Following Prophet Muhammad, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, is a fundamental part of Islamic creed; and it means that a Muslim must follow the Prophet's teachings – regardless if the teachings are related to worship, manners, transactions or other matters.



The Testimonies of Faith

A practical and spiritual commitment

The Testimonies of Faith are not merely words someone utters with their tongue, instead are a practical and spiritual commitment that affect the entirety of a Muslim's life. Testimony that there is no true God worthy of worship but Allah means that a person must, worship Allah alone, submit to Allah alone in all matters, depend on Allah, ask and supplicate to Allah, and avoid what contradicts monotheism, such as polytheism and innovations in religion.

As for the testimony that Muhammad, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, is the Messenger of Allah; it means that a Muslim must follow the teachings of Prophet Muhammad, and follow his example in his life. The Prophet Muhammad, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, said: **(Everyone of my Ummah will enter Jannah except those who refuse". He was asked: "Who will refuse?" He said, "Whoever obeys me, shall enter Paradise, and whosoever disobeys me, refuses to (enter Jannah)"**) [Al- Bukhari].

This Testimony of Faith obliges a Muslim to act in accordance with the guidance and morals brought by the Prophet, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, and to avoid what he forbade.



The impact of the Two Testimonies

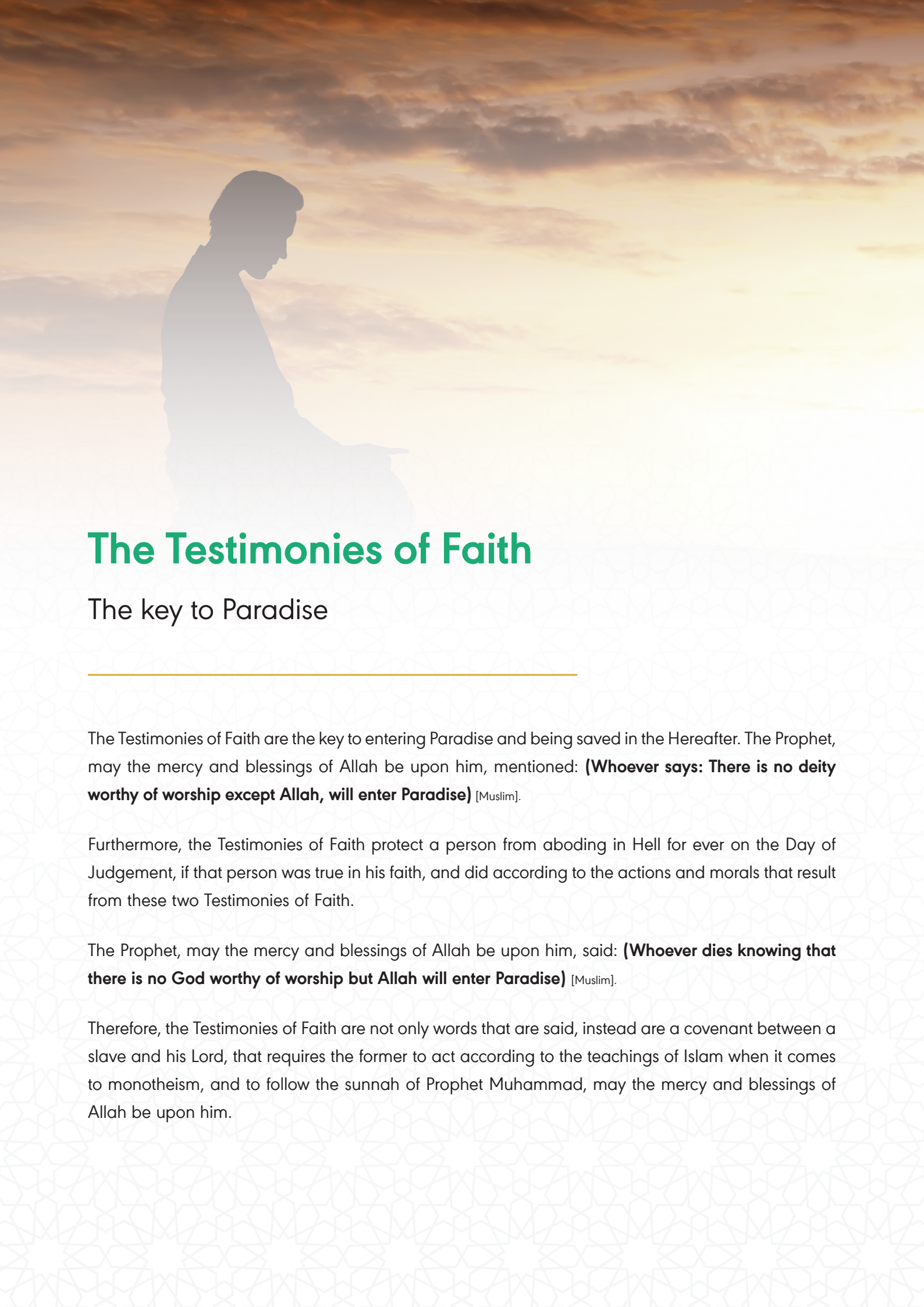
of Faith on a Muslim's life

The Two Testimonies of Faith impact a Muslim's life greatly, as they are the basis upon which he/she structures all his actions and words. Monotheism gives a Muslim peace of mind, as he knows that Allah is in control of all things, and that he does not need any intermediaries between him and his Lord. Allah Almighty says: **(...for indeed in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find tranquility)** [Ar-Rad: 28].

This feeling of being dependent on Allah reduces worry and fear about the future, and makes a Muslim more capable at facing life's challenges.

From another aspect, belief in the message of Prophet Muhammad, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, causes a Muslim to follow a clear approach in his life – while using the Qur'an and Sunnah as the ultimate guide.

This message is not limited to acts of worship only, instead includes all aspects of life concerning morals, transactions, and social relationships. A Muslim who bears witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah adheres to the high moral standards that the Prophet Muhammad used to call to, such as honesty, trustworthiness, and being good to others.



The Testimonies of Faith

The key to Paradise

The Testimonies of Faith are the key to entering Paradise and being saved in the Hereafter. The Prophet, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, mentioned: **(Whoever says: There is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, will enter Paradise)** [Muslim].

Furthermore, the Testimonies of Faith protect a person from abiding in Hell for ever on the Day of Judgement, if that person was true in his faith, and did according to the actions and morals that result from these two Testimonies of Faith.

The Prophet, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, said: **(Whoever dies knowing that there is no God worthy of worship but Allah will enter Paradise)** [Muslim].

Therefore, the Testimonies of Faith are not only words that are said, instead are a covenant between a slave and his Lord, that requires the former to act according to the teachings of Islam when it comes to monotheism, and to follow the sunnah of Prophet Muhammad, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him.



Conclusion

The Testimonies of Faith are the main pillar of Belief in Islam. Bearing witness that there is no true God worthy of worship but Allah, confirms the Oneness of Allah, and rejects all forms of polytheism. Bearing witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah means that a Muslim must follow the path of Prophet Muhammad.

Therefore, the Testimonies of Faith are not simple words, instead bear great meanings that require a person to submit completely to Allah Almighty, and to follow the teachings of Prophet Muhammad, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him.

Through the Testimonies of Faith, a Muslim achieves peace of mind and happiness in this life, and looks forward to/and hopes to win Paradise and be saved in the Hereafter.

Fourth Topic

Islam is the religion of all Prophets

Introduction

Prophets are people sent by Allah to other people in order to convey Allah's messages, and guide humanity to the straight path. What unites all Prophets from Adam, peace be upon him, to Muhammad, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, is the one message of "tawheed" they all preached, i.e., the belief in One deity Who has no associates. All Prophets came to invite their people to the worship of Allah alone, and to leave the worship of idols or worship of any associates with Allah **(meaning worshipping Allah through something or someone)**.

Islam, that means surrendering to Allah through obedience and worshipping Him alone humbly, was the religion of all Prophets throughout the ages, despite the fact that the laws and acts of worship differed according to time and place.



Islam

The religion of all Prophets

Islam – in its general meaning – is not a religion confined to the Prophet Muhammad, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, instead Islam is the message Allah sent to all Prophets. Islam means submission and surrender to Allah Almighty, which is what every Prophet of Allah followed. Allah Almighty says: **(The true religion with Allah is Islam)** [Al-Imran: 19].

This previous verse confirms that the religion that Allah accepted for all people is Islam, which is the religion that requires belief in Allah, asserting that Allah is One, and following His orders. All Prophets were Muslims in this general sense, as they all called to the worship of Allah alone, and the rejecting of polytheism and idolatry.



The Message of “tawheed” monotheism

The message preached by the Prophets

The creed of “tawheed” is the backbone of the messages of all Prophets. All Prophets were sent to their people to call them to the worship of Allah alone, and to reject the worship of idols/false gods or any other creature. Allah Almighty has said: **(We never sent before you [O Prophet] any messenger without revealing to him that none has the right to be worshiped except Me, so worship Me)** [Al-Anbiya: 25], and has said: **(Indeed, We sent to every community a messenger, [saying], “Worship Allah and shun false gods)** [Al-Nahl: 36].

These two previous verses show to us that the message of every Messenger was always the same: “There is no true God worthy of worship but Allah”.

For example: The message of Noah, peace be upon him, was clear in this sense, as he said to his people: **(...“O my people, worship Allah; you have no god other than Him)** [Al-A'raf: 59].

As were the messages of Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad, peace be upon them; they all preached the same creed: “tawheed” monotheism.



Abraham peace be upon him

The father of Prophets and the call towards “tawheed

Abraham the father of Prophets, peace be upon him, was chosen by Allah Almighty for His monotheistic message. His message was to fight idolatry and guide people to worship, Allah, the One. Allah Almighty mentioned Abraham: **(Abraham was a model of excellence, devoted to Allah and inclined to true faith, and he was not one of those who associate partners with Allah)** [An-Nahl: 20].

Abraham peace be upon him was an example of a Muslim Prophet who submitted to Allah alone, and never associated with Him anything in worship. Abraham built the Kaaba together with his son Ismaeel, peace be upon them, in order for it to be a house of worshipping Allah alone.

He stood up to his father and people, with all bravery, when they were worshiping idols, and used to tell them as Allah informed us: **(And [remember] when Abraham said to his father and his people, “I disown all that you worship, except the One Who created me; He will surely guide me)** [Az-Zukhruf: 26-27].

These verses show that the message of Abraham was calling to the Oneness of Allah Almighty, and rejecting shirk (**polytheism**). Many of Prophet Abraham’s (**peace be upon him**) lineage were also Prophets, and all of them preached the same message of their father Abraham: Islam



Moses and Jesus peace be upon them

The same message of “tawheed”

Moses and Jesus, peace be upon them, were also from among the greatest Prophets sent by Allah.

Their message was the message of “tawheed” monotheism. Moses, peace be upon him, came with the message of tawheed to the Children of Israel, used to instruct them to worship Allah alone, and instructed them to fight off worshipping the calf-idol that his people had mistakenly worshipped.

Allah says: **(And [remember] when Moses said to his people, “O my people, you have wronged yourselves by taking the calf [for worship]. So repent to your Creator and kill yourselves [i.e., the guilty among you]; that is best for you with your Creator)** [Al-Baqarah: 54].

As for Jesus Christ, peace be upon him, he was sent to remind the Children of Israel of the message of tawheed after they had gone astray from the worship of Allah Almighty. Allah Almighty said on the tongue of Jesus, peace be upon him: **([Jesus said], “Indeed, Allah is my Lord and your Lord, so worship Him. This is a straight path)** [Maryam: 36].

Christ, peace be upon him, did not come with a new message that contradicted the message of Moses or Abraham, instead his message was confirmation of the Oneness of Allah and the worship of Allah alone.



Muhammad, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him

The seal of Prophets and the final message of monotheism

Muhammad, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, was sent to be the final of all Prophets and Messengers. Allah has said: **(Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the seal of the prophets)** [Al-Ahzab: 40].

The message of Prophet Muhammad, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, was a confirmation and a reminder of the message of tawheed that Allah sent every Prophet with. Muhammad, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, said: **(My example and that of the prophets before me is like that of a man who built a house and made it beautiful and perfect except for the place of one brick in a corner. The people went around it and marveled at him and said, "Why was this brick not put in place?" So I am that brick, and I am the Seal of the Prophets)** [Al-Bukhari].

This is how the message of Prophet Muhammad, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, is considered a continuation of all previous Prophets; and furthermore, the Qur'an has confirmed that all Prophets preached the same creed.



Conclusion

All Prophets, from Adam peace be upon him, till Muhammad, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, preached the same main message: to worship Allah alone, without any associates. The general meaning of Islam is submission to Allah; and Islam is the religion of all Prophets.

The call to tawheed was the basis on which all Prophets gathered upon; for Allah sent them all to guide humanity to the truth. Islam is the religion that unites the message of the Prophets, and made their message continuous throughout the eras.

Indeed, it is Islam that unites all heavenly messages in the Oneness of the Creator, the Magnificent, and guides humanity towards the worship of Allah and obeying of His commands.

Fifth Topic

Proofs for the existence of a Creator

Introduction

All that exists – what we can and cannot see – is proof and a sign (for every sensible person) that the Almighty, the Creator exists.

The Holy Qur'an has dealt with the issue of creation and Allah's managing of the universe in a unique manner, and directs minds to contemplate the vastness of the universe and the many signs of Allah.

It calls on the mind to awaken from its slumber and reflect on the kingdom of the heavens and earth, and the signs and evidences Allah has placed in them.



The human mind reason (as proof)

The human mind/reason indicates the existence of Allah Almighty, since all creatures must have an originator and Creator. Creatures cannot create themselves, nor come into existence by chance, nor can they come into existence by chance. The Qur'an has presented an argument to deniers.

This argument states that the human mind must acknowledge this, and a sound human mind cannot refuse it.

For Allah Almighty has stated: **(Were they created by none, or were they the creators [of themselves]? Or did they create the heavens and earth? Rather, they are not certain in faith)** [At-Toor: 35-36].

What we understand from the verses is as follows: You really do exist, which is a fact you can not deny; and the heavens and earth exist without any doubt. So, who created them. Who created you, and organizes the world you live in? And who created the heavens and all that is in them from bodies and orbiting items? Who created earth and all that is in it from mountains, oceans and rivers?

This is why we commonly notice that the Holy Qur'an encourages reason and insight, and nothing is more evident of this than the large number of verses that end with Allah's sayings: **(Will you not come to reason)**, and **(So that you may understand)**.



The precision of the universe's system

The precision of the universe's system indicates the existence of Allah Almighty. Whoever looks into the universe and what it contains from orbiting objects, and looks into the creations around him – will notice that all such creations (small and big) are governed by laws of the utmost precision and accuracy.

For example, the sun rises and sets at specific known times. Allah Almighty has said: **(The sun and the moon follow their precise courses)** [Ar-Rahman:5], and: **(It is He Who created the night and the day, the sun and the moon – each floating in its orbit)** [Al-Anbiya: 33].

Furthermore, what knowledge humans have reached – and the knowledge they will still discover in every time and place – from discoveries of laws and scientific secrets; all of these are proof of the existence of the Creator Almighty, such as Allah's mention: **(You will see the mountains, thinking them firmly fixed, but they will be moving like clouds – such is the design of Allah, Who has perfected everything)** [An-Naml:88].

It used to be believed that the earth and the mountains were both still and did not move, until it was proven that the earth spins, as do the mountains **(and have different movements too)**.



Pure instinct indicates the existence of Allah

The Qur'an states that sound instinct and pure conscience confirm the existence of Allah Almighty without any evidence. Not only so, rather His Oneness is considered a common-sense natural inclination. Which is why you find millions of people who believe in the existence of a God to this universe; likewise, sensible people, scholars, wise people – and more so Prophets and pious people – all of them believe in Allah and call people to Allah.

However, people are surrounded by many factors that lead them away from belief in Allah Almighty, such as jinn and human devils who mislead one, tendency to be lazy, ignorance in religion or following lusts.

On the authority of Abu Hurairah, may God be pleased with him, who said: The Messenger of God, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him, said: **(No child is born except in a state of fitrah, then his parents make him a Jew, a Christian, or a Zoroastrian)** [Al-Bukhari & Muslim].



Begging Allah during calamities and tribulations

Human weakness/humility towards Allah that is present in all humans becomes apparent during calamities and difficult times, during which people **(believers or non-believers)** tend to turn to Allah and to begging Him. Many atheists got to know their Lord and turned to Him in this way. And many polytheists became sincere toward Allah in their faith after a calamity that happened to them, causing Allah to remove any veil that was covering them their natural inclination.

Allah Almighty has mentioned: **(It is He Who enables you to travel through the land and sea, until when you are in the ships and they sail with those on board and rejoicing in a favorable wind, then suddenly a stormy wind comes, with waves crashing into them on all sides, and they feel that there is no escape. Then they cry out to Allah with sincere devotion to Him, "If You save us from this, we will surely be among those who are grateful)** [Yunus: 22].

Allah Almighty also said: **(When hardship befalls man, he calls upon Us, whether lying on his side, sitting or standing. But when We remove his hardship, he turns a blind eye as though he had never called upon Us to remove his hardship. This is how the misdeeds of the transgressors are made appealing to them)** [Yunus:12].

Questions on Level **One**



First Topic

Pillars of worship in Islam

1. True or False:

Prayer is the first pillar of worship in Islam.

Answer: False (The first pillar is the Testimony of Faith).

2. Multiple Choice:

Which of the following is considered an objective of fasting?

- A. Seeking income
- B. Achieving social peace of mind
- C. Strengthening one's will and fear of Allah
- D. Spreading Islam

Answer: C. Strengthening one's will and fear of Allah.

3. Connecting two pieces of information:

Prayer teaches a Muslim discipline, while fasting teaches him patience. What is the link between the two?

Answer: Both them aim at self-discipline, and at building a balanced personality that follows Allah's commands.

4. Explaining and analyzing:

Why do the pillars of worship in Islam start off with the Testimonies of Faith before visible acts such as prayer and zakat?

Answer: Because the Testimony of Faith represents the core concept of creed, upon which physical actions are based on. So, without correct belief actions are not accepted by Allah.

Second Topic

Pillars of Belief in Islam

1. True or False:

Belief in destiny includes the belief that bad occurrences are not from Allah.

Answer: False (Destiny includes that good and bad are all under Allah's will).

2. Multiple Choice:

Which of the following is not from the pillars of Belief in Islam?

- A. Belief in the Messengers
- B. Belief in Paradise only
- C. Belief in the Holy Books
- D. Belief in the Angels

Answer: B. Belief in Paradise only.

3. Connecting two pieces of information:

Belief in Allah is the core of all pillars of Belief in Islam, while belief in the Messengers is based on Allah choosing Messengers. What is the relation between the two?

Answer: Belief in Allah causes a Muslim to believe that Allah chooses Who He wishes to be a Messenger. This causes a believer to belief in the Messengers and in their messages.

4. Explaining and analyzing:

How does believing in the Final Day impact the daily behavior of a Muslim?

Answer: It causes one to judge themselves, and control their behavior, knowing that they will be held accountable for every action in the hereafter.

Third Topic

The Testimonies of Faith and their meaning

1. True or False:

Bearing witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah does not mean one must follow his sunnah.

Answer: False

2. Multiple Choice:

What does testifying that there is no true God worthy of worship but Allah mean?

- A. Only acknowledging that Allah exists
- B. Denying that statues exist
- C. Acknowledging that Allah is One and only He is worthy of worship
- D. Following the path of Islam

Answer: C. Acknowledging that Allah is One and only He is worthy of worship.

3. Connecting two pieces of information:

Testifying to monotheism "tawheed" frees a person from slavery to other than Allah, and testifying to Muhammad's message guides one to follow the Prophet. What is the link between the two?

Answer: Both complete one another when it comes to sincerely worshipping Allah and following the shariah.

4. Explaining and analyzing:

HowWhat does "the Testimonies of Faith are the key to Paradise" mean?

Answer: This means that whoever believes in them and achieved their meaning in his/her life will deserve to enter Paradise.

Fourth Topic

Islam is the religion of all Prophets

1. True or False:

The messages of Moses and Jesus, peace be upon them, were different in creed (belief) than that of Muhammad, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon him.

Answer: False

2. Multiple Choice:

Which of the following Prophets built the Ka'ba:

- A. Noah
- B. Moses
- C. Ibrahim
- D. Muhammad

Answer: C. Ibrahim

3. Connecting two pieces of information:

The Prophets called to the worship of Allah alone, while the Qur'an described the religion of all Prophets as Islam. What is the relation?

Answer: Islam is to follow monotheism "tawheed" and obey Allah; which is the core message of all the Prophets.

4. Explaining and analyzing:

Why do we notice that the Qur'an mentions that all Prophets had the same message, despite them living in different eras from one another?

Answer: In order to strengthen the creed in the hearts of Muslims, and to show that the true religion is one – even if ways of worship differed.

Fifth Topic

Evidence for the existence of The Creator

1. True or False:

Natural inclination (the pure way we were born on) is not enough to proof the existence of Allah, instead we only need evidence from our senses to prove so.

Answer: False

2. Multiple Choice:

Which of the following is considered evidence of the existence of Allah – from the human mind point of view?

- A- Feeling peace of mind
- B. The system of the universe
- C. A dream
- D. Many dreams

Answer: B. The system of the universe

3. Connecting two pieces of information:

During calamities people turn to Allah - and pure inclination confirms Allah's existence. What is the relation?

Answer: Both of them prove that belief in Allah is naturally embedded in the core of the human soul.

4. Explaining and analyzing:

Why does the Qur'an cite "horizons" and "souls" when proving the existence of The Creator?

Answer: Because they are both proofs that can be seen and felt, and both call upon humans to think and conclude that rationally there has to be a Creator.