
Essence of worship for which Allaah created Jinn and Mankind

Article taken and slightly adapted from: alifta.gov.sa

[Part No. 1; Page Nos. 67 - 71]

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

This is a message from `Abdul-`Aziz ibn `Abdullah ibn Baaz to every Muslim who may receive it. May Allaah show us the way of His faithful servants and keep us away from the way of those on whom the Wrath of Allaah came down and those who are astray, Amen. As-salamu `alaykum warahmatullah wabarakatuh (May Allaah's Peace, Mercy, and Blessings be upon you). The most important obligation for the Mukallaf (person meeting the conditions to be held legally accountable for their actions) is to worship Allaah (Glorified be He), the Lord of the heaven and earth, and the Lord of the Great Throne. Allaah (Praised be He) says in His Glorious Book:

[Indeed your Lord is Allaah, Who created the heavens and the earth in Six Days, and then He rose over (Istawaa) the Throne (really in a manner that suits His Majesty). He brings the night as a cover over the day, seeking it rapidly, and (He created) the sun, the moon, the stars subjected to His Command. Surely, His is the Creation and Commandment. Blessed is Allaah, the Lord of the 'Alameen (mankind, jinn and all that exists)! Invoke your Lord with humility and in secret. He likes not the aggressors. And do not do mischief on the earth, after it has been set in order, and invoke Him with fear and hope. Surely, Allaah's Mercy is (ever) near unto the good-doers.]¹

Allaah informs us in His book that He created Jinn and mankind for the purpose that they worship Him. Allaah (Glorified be He) says: **[And I (Allaah) created not the jinn and mankind except that they should worship Me (Alone).]**² This worship for which Allaah has created Jinn and humanity means to believe in the Oneness of Allaah and devote all forms of worship to Him Alone. These forms of worship include Salaah (Prayer), Sawm (Fasting), Zakaah (obligatory charity), Hajj (pilgrimage to Makkah), Sajood (prostration), Tawaaf (circumambulation of the Ka`bah), slaughtering sacrificial animals, making vows, showing fear or hope, seeking help and protection, all kinds of Du'aa' (supplication) as well as adherence to what is stated in His Glorious book and the Sunnah of His honest Messenger (peace be upon him) concerning the commandments and prohibitions of the Sharee'ah (Islaamic law). Allaah sent all Messengers and revealed the Divine Books in order to clarify for people

¹ Soorah al-A'raaf [7:54-56]

² Soorah al-Dhariyaat [51-56]

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in detail how to worship Him and command them to devote all acts of worship sincerely to Him, and call other people to it. Allaah (Exalted be He) says:

[O mankind! Worship your Lord (Allaah), Who created you and those who were before you so that you may become Al-Muttaqoon (the pious).]³ He (Glorified be He) also says: **[And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him. And that you be dutiful to your parents.]**⁴ The word "decreed" here means that He commanded and enjoined. Moreover, Allaah (Exalted be He) says: **[And they were commanded not, but that they should worship Allaah, and worship none but Him Alone (abstaining from ascribing partners to Him), and perform As-Salaat (Iqaamat-as-Salaat) and give Zakaat, and that is the right religion.]**⁵ There are many Ayahs (Qur'aanic verses) in this regard. Moreover, Allaah (Exalted be He) says: **[And whatsoever the Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ) gives you, take it; and whatsoever he forbids you, abstain (from it). And fear Allaah; verily, Allaah is Severe in punishment.]**⁶ And: **[O you who believe! Obey Allaah and obey the Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ), and those of you (Muslims) who are in authority. (And) if you differ in anything amongst yourselves, refer it to Allaah and His Messenger (ﷺ), if you believe in Allaah and in the Last Day. That is better and more suitable for final determination.]**⁷

And: **[He who obeys the Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ), has indeed obeyed Allaah.]**⁸ And: **[And verily, We have sent among every Ummah (community, nation) a Messenger (proclaiming): "Worship Allaah (Alone), and avoid (or keep away from) Taghoot (all false deities i.e. do not worship Taghoot besides Allaah)."]**⁹ And: **[And We did not send any Messenger before you (O Muhammad ﷺ) but We revealed to him (saying): Laa ilaaha illa Ana [none has the right to be worshipped but I (Allaah)], so worship Me (Alone and none else)."]**¹⁰ And: **[Alif-Laam-Raa. [These letters are one of the miracles of the Qur'aan and none but Allaah (Alone) knows their meanings]. (This is) a Book, the Verses whereof are perfected (in every sphere of knowledge), and then explained in detail from One (Allaah) Who is All-Wise Well-Acquainted (with all things). (Saying) worship none but Allaah. Verily, I (O Muhammad ﷺ) am unto you from Him a warner and a bringer of glad tidings.]**¹¹

These Muhkamat (decisive legislative, self-contained Qur'aanic verses, closed to any interpretation) and other similar Ayahs in the Book of Allaah indicate the necessity of dedicating worship solely to Allaah, which constitutes the origin of Islaam and the basis of its `Aqeedah (creed).

³ Soorah al-Baqarah [2:21]

⁴ Soorah al-Israa [17:23]

⁵ Soorah al-Bayyinah [98:5]

⁶ Soorah al-Hasher [59:7]

⁷ Soorah al-Nisaa [4:59]

⁸ Soorah al-Nisaa [4:80]

⁹ Soorah al-Nahl [16:36]

¹⁰ Soorah al-Ambeeyaa [21:25]

¹¹ Soorah al-Hood [11:1-2]

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These Ayahs also illustrate why Allaah created Jinn and mankind, sent the Messengers, and revealed the Glorious books. Thus, all the Mukallafs should take care of this matter and understand it well and be aware of the errors that many of those who ascribe themselves to Islaam fall in, such as excessive reverence for prophets and pious people, building Masjids (mosques) and domes over their graves and taking them as places of worship, seeking help from them, asking them to fulfil their needs, dispelling their distresses, curing the ill people among them or giving them victory over the enemies and other matters that are regarded as among the types of major Shirk (associating others with Allaah in His Divinity or worship that takes the Muslim out of Islaam).

There are authentically reported Hadeeths from the Messenger of Allaah (peace be upon him) that correspond in meaning to the Ayahs. It is reported in the Two Saheeh (authentic) Books of Hadeeth (i.e. Al-Bukhaaree and Muslim) on the authority of Mu`adh (may Allaah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said to him: **['O Mu`adh, do you know what is the Right of Allaah over His servants and what is the right of the servants over Allaah?']** Mu`adh said, 'Allaah and His Messenger know best.' He (peace be upon him) said, 'Verily, the Right of Allaah over His servants is that they should worship Him, associating nothing with Him. And the right of the servants over Allaah is not to punish those who associate nothing with Him.'

It is reported in Saheeh of Al-Bukhaaree on the authority of Ibn Mas'ood (may Allaah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: **[Whoever dies while calling on (invoking) anything as a partner to Allaah will enter Hell.]** Also, Muslim narrated in his Saheeh on the authority of Jabir (may Allaah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: **[Whoever meets Allaah while associating nothing with Him will enter Paradise; and whoever meets Him while associating anything with Him will enter Hell.]** There are many other Hadeeths in this regard. In fact, the issue of belief in the Oneness of Allaah (Exalted be He) and avoiding associates with Allaah in His Divinity or worship is the most important issue. Allaah (Exalted be He) sent His Messenger Muhammad (peace be upon him) to call people to Tawheed (belief in the Oneness of Allaah) and to forbid Shirk (associating others with Allaah in His Divinity or worship). The Prophet (peace be upon him) spared no effort in the proclamation of the Message which Allaah revealed to him. He (peace be upon him) fulfilled his duty perfectly and suffered severe harm for the Sake of Allaah. The Prophet (peace be upon him) endured with patience all the hardships, and his Sahaabah (companions, may Allaah be pleased with them) along with him, until they conveyed the Message and Allaah removed from the Arabian Peninsula every idol and symbol of Shirk. Thus, people entered into the Religion of Allaah in multitudes. All the idols around and within the Ka`bah were destroyed. The idols of Al-Lat, Al-Uzza and Manat (names of the prominent idols that were worshipped by Arabs before Islaam) and all other idols of the Arab tribes were demolished. The Word of Allaah dominated and became superior to anything else, and Islaam spread in the Arabian Peninsula.

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Then Muslims undertook the duty of calling people to the Way of Allaah and striving in His Cause outside the Arabian Peninsula. Thus, Allaah guided, through them, those predestined to eternal happiness.

They spread truth and justice throughout the globe. Those earlier Muslims became the Imaams of guidance, leaders of truth, and preachers of righteousness. Then there came after them people who were Imaams of guidance and callers to truth. They adopted the same righteous way of their predecessors, spreading the Religion of Allaah, calling people to Allaah, and striving with their souls and possessions in the Cause of Allaah. They never feared the blame of the blamers while proclaiming the Truth. Therefore, Allaah supported them, granted them victory over their enemies, and fulfilled to them the Promise that He gave to believers in His Words: **[O you who believe! If you help (in the cause of) Allaah, He will help you, and make your foothold firm.]**¹²

And His Words: **[Verily, Allaah will help those who help His (Cause). Truly, Allaah is All-Strong, All-Mighty. Those (Muslim rulers) who, if We give them power in the land, (they) enjoin Iqamat-as-Salaat [i.e. to perform the five compulsory congregational Salaat (prayers) (the males in mosques)], pay the Zakaat and they enjoin Al-Ma'roof (i.e. Islaamic Monotheism and all that Islaam orders one to do), and forbid Al-Munkar (i.e. disbelief, polytheism and all that Islaam has forbidden) [i.e. they make the Qur'aan as the law of their country in all the spheres of life]. And with Allaah rests the end of (all) matters (of creatures).]**¹³ After this, people drifted away from the way of these successful generations. They differed and neglected Jihaad (fighting or striving in the Cause of Allaah), preferred easy life, followed their desires, and committed wrongdoings, except those whom Allaah protected. In consequence, Allaah changed their prosperous condition and gave their enemies power over them due to the sins they committed. Indeed, Allaah is never unjust to His servants. He (Exalted be He) says: **[Verily, Allaah will not change the (good) condition of a people as long as they do not change their state (of goodness) themselves (by committing sins and by being ungrateful and disobedient to Allaah).]**¹⁴

In light of this, Muslims, whether governments or populations, should return to Allaah and be sincere in their worship. Everyone is required to repent to Allaah of their faults and sins and abide by the duties and obligations that Allaah has ordained. The true Muslim is the one who keeps away from every forbidden act and advises other Muslims to obey Allaah (Exalted be He) and cooperates with them in fulfilling their duties towards Allaah.

The most important matter in this regard is to execute the Shar'eh (Islaamic legal) Hudood (ordained punishments for violating Allaah's Law), resort to the rulings of Sharee'ah

¹² Soorah Muhammad [47:7]

¹³ Soorah Al-Hajj [22:40-41]

¹⁴ Soorah al-Ra'ad [13:11]

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(Islaamic law) in everything, refuse the man-made laws that go against the Laws of Allaah and oblige all people to adhere to the rulings of Sharee'ah.

Muslim scholars should teach people the religion of Islaam and spread Islaamic awareness among Muslims and the value of exhorting one another to truth and showing patience with this. They should also enjoin good and forbid evil. They should encourage Muslim rulers to adhere to these principles. Moreover, scholars should occupy themselves with fighting the evil-oriented destructive principles, such as Communism, Fanaticism, Nationalism, and all other doctrines which contradict the Sharee'ah.

Thus, Allaah will rectify the status of Muslims and restore their lost glory to them. If they really reform themselves, Allaah will make them victorious over their enemy and establish them in the land as He, the Most Truthful One, says: **[...and (as for) the believers, it was incumbent upon Us to help (them).]**¹⁵ He (Glorified be He) also says: **[Allaah has promised those among you who believe and do righteous good deeds, that He will certainly grant them succession to (the present rulers) in the land, as He granted it to those before them, and that He will grant them the authority to practise their religion which He has chosen for them (i.e. Islaam). And He will surely give them in exchange a safe security after their fear (provided) they (believers) worship Me and do not associate anything (in worship) with Me. But whoever disbelieves after this, they are the Faasiqoon (rebellious, disobedient to Allaah).]**¹⁶ And: **[Verily, We will indeed make victorious Our Messengers and those who believe (in the Oneness of Allaah - Islaamic Monotheism) in this world's life and on the Day when the witnesses will stand forth, (i.e. Day of Resurrection) - The Day when their excuses will be of no profit to Zalimoon (polytheists, wrong-doers and disbelievers in the Oneness of Allaah). Theirs will be the curse, and theirs will be the evil abode (i.e. painful torment in Hell-fire).]**¹⁷

We ask Allaah to guide the Muslim rulers and people, help them comprehend their religion, unite them by piety and guide them all to His Right Path. We hope that Allaah will make them a means to the victory of truth and the defeat of falsehood. We invoke Him to help them cooperate with one another in righteousness and piety. May Allaah's Peace and Blessings be upon His servant, Messenger, and the chosen one among all people, our Prophet and leader Muhammad ibn `Abdullah. May Allaah's Peace and Blessings be upon the Household of the Prophet, his Companions, and those who follow the guidance with which he was sent.

¹⁵ Soorah al-Room [30:47]

¹⁶ Soorah al-Noor [24:55]

¹⁷ Soorah Ghafir [40:51-52]