

## Reaffirmation of One's Emān, Tawheed and Adherence to the Sunnah

أَصْبَحْنَا عَلَى فِطْرَةِ الْإِسْلَامِ وَعَلَى كَلِمَةِ الْإِخْلَاصِ، وَعَلَى دِينِ نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ  
صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ، وَعَلَى مِلَّةِ أَبِيْنَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ، حَنِيفًا مُسْلِمًا وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ  
الْمُشْرِكِينَ

Asbah-nā 'alā fitratil-Islāmi wa 'alā kalimatil-Ikhlāsi, wa 'alā deeni Nabiyyi-nā  
Muhammadin (sallAllāhu 'alayhi wa sallama), wa 'alā millati Abee-nā 'Ibrāheema,  
Haneefan Musliman kāna minal-mushrikeen.

(We have reached the morning upon the *Fit-rah* [natural way] of Islam, and the *word* of *Ikh-lās* (pure faith), [i.e. bearing witness that nothing deserves to be worshipped except Allāh] and upon the *Deen* (religion) of our Prophet Muḥammad (SallAllāhu Alaihi wa Sallam) and the *Millah* (creed/way) of our forefather, Ibrāheem (Alaihis-Salām), who was *Haneefan* (inclined toward true faith) *Musliman* (in total submission) and was not of those who associate others with Allāh.)

### **Text of the Hadeeth:**

From among the glorious words of remembrance which the Prophet (SallAllāhu Alaihi wa Sallam) used to recite each morning is that which is reported by Imām Aḥmad, from Abdur-Raḥmān ibn Abzā (RadiyahAllāhu an-hu), who said: When the Prophet (SallAllāhu Alaihi wa Sallam) reached the morning he would recite: ‘We have reached the morning upon the *Fit-rah* [natural way] of Islam, and the *word* of *Ikh-lās* (pure faith), [i.e. bearing witness that nothing deserves to be worshipped except Allāh] and upon the *Deen* (religion) of our Prophet Muḥammad (SallAllāhu Alaihi wa Sallam) and the *Millah* (creed/way) of our forefather, Ibrāheem (Alaihis-Salām), who was *Haneefan* (inclined toward true faith) *Musliman* (in total submission) and was not of those who associate others with Allāh.’

[Reported by Aḥmad, 3/407, and al-Albānee declared it to be authentic in ‘Saḥeeḥ al-Jāmi’ no. 4674. Fortress of the Muslim, no. 90]

### **Explanation of the Hadeeth:**

What could be more beautiful for a Muslim to open his day with than these splendid words, which include the renewal of *Emān* (True Faith), proclamation of *Tawḥeed* (Allāh’s Unique Oneness), confirmation of one’s adherence to the religion of Muḥammad (SallAllāhu Alaihi wa Sallam), following the creed of Ibrāheem al-Khaleel (Alaihis-Salām), i.e. *al-Haneefeeyah as-Samḥah* (the Upright, Tolerant Way), and being far removed from every form of *Shirk* (association of something with Allāh) whether minor or major.

These are expressions of *Emān* and *Tawḥeed* (True Faith in the Unique Oneness of Allāh), *Sidq* and *Ikhlās* (Truthfulness and Sincerity), *Khodoo'* and *Idh-'an* (Humility and Willing Submission), *Mutaba'ah* and *Inqiyād* (Strict Following and Compliance) – and it is befitting of the one who is consistent in the recitation of these expressions that he contemplate and reflect upon their lofty indications and majestic meanings.

The Prophet's (SallAllāhu Alaihi wa Sallam) saying: '**We have reached the morning upon the *Fit-rah* [natural way] of Islam ...**' – means that Allāh has favored us to reach the morning, while we are upon the *Fit-rah* (natural state) of al-Islām, holding fast to it, guarding it carefully, without making any change in it, nor exchanging (any part of it for something else).

The Prophet's (SallAllāhu Alaihi wa Sallam) saying: '**...the *Fit-rah* [natural way] of Islam ...**' – means: the *Islamic way of life* which Allāh has created human beings to be upon *naturally*. This is accomplished by a person turning his face (and whole being) towards the *Deen* of Allāh, being upright [in beliefs and action] – by directing the heart, the intentions and the body towards strict adherence to the religious injunctions of Islam, both *outwardly* [with the likes of prayer, charity, fasting, and pilgrimage, etc.] and *inwardly* [with love, hope, and fear, etc.] .

This is as Allāh, the Most High, said:

فَأَقِمْ وَجْهَكَ لِلدِّينِ حَنِيفًا فِطْرَتَ اللَّهِ الَّتِي فَطَرَ النَّاسَ عَلَيْهَا لَا تَبْدِيلَ لِخَلْقِ اللَّهِ ذَلِكَ الدِّينُ الْقَيِّمُ  
وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ (30)

“So, direct your face (i.e. your whole being) towards the *Deen* (Islamic Way of Life), being upright (i.e. inclined towards *Tawḥeed* and away from *Shirk*) – the natural way of Allāh upon which He has created the human beings. There should be no change in the creation of Allāh (i.e. the religion of *Tawḥeed*); that is the straight religion, though most of the people do not know.” [Qur’ān, 30:30]

**Al-Hāfidh Ibn Katheer (Raḥima-hullāh) concerning the meaning of this Āyah, says:** Allāh, the Most High, says: “Direct your face (and whole being) - and remain constant - upon the *Deen* (way of life) which Allāh has legislated for you, i.e. *al-Haneefeeyah* (the Upright Way), the *Millah* (Creed) of Ibrāheem (Alaihis-Salām) which Allāh guided you to, and which He completed for you to an extraordinary level of perfection. Along with this, you are strictly adhering to your wholesome natural state which Allāh created the creatures upon. Indeed, Allāh, the Most High, created His creation naturally upon knowledge/awareness of His *Tawḥeed*, and that there is nothing which deserves to be worshipped besides Him...”[to the end of his quote (Raḥima-hullāh) Tafseer Ibn Katheer, 30:30]

So, this is fundamental to all human beings (i.e. that they are upon this natural state), and whoever is outside of this fundamental (natural state of Tawḥeed), then, this is due to some incidental occurrence which affected his natural state and corrupted it (with deviation).

This is mentioned in the Hadeeth of ‘Iyādh al-Majāshi’ee (RadiyahAllāhu an-hu), from the Prophet (SallAllāhu Alaihi wa Sallam), in that which he (SallAllāhu Alaihi wa Sallam) narrated from his Lord (Azza wa Jalla) that He (Azza wa Jalla) said: “**Verily, I have created my servants – all of them –**

***Hunafā'*** (inclined towards *Tawhēed* and away from *Shirk*). Then, the devils came to them and caused them to deviate from their Deen, made unlawful for them that which I made lawful for them, and commanded them to associate something with Me (in worship) for which I have not sent down any authority.” [Reported by Muslim in his Saḥeeḥ, no. 2865]

In Saḥeeḥ al-Bukhāree and Saḥeeḥ Muslim, from the Ḥadeeth of Abu Hurairah (Radiyah Allāhu an-hu), who said, the Messenger of Allāh (SallAllāhu Alaihi wa Sallam) said: “**There is no child born, except that he/she is born upon the *Fitrah* (natural state of Tawhēed). Then, his parents convert him into being a Jew or a Christian or a Magian (fire-worshipper).**” [Bukhāree, no. 1359; Muslim, no. 2658]

There is no doubt that it is a tremendous favor of Allāh upon His worshipper that when he reaches the morning he is upon a pure natural state which has not been affected by any pollution, change or deviation.

The Prophet’s (SallAllāhu Alaihi wa Sallam) saying: ‘...and the **word of *Ikh-lās* (pure faith)**, - means: we have reached the morning upon *the word of Ikh-lās*, which is the *word of Tawhēed*: ‘nothing has the right to be worshipped except Allāh’, that magnificent, splendid word which is the best of the glorious words and the most exalted of them, without exception; in fact, it is the apex of the Deen and its foundation, and the most important matter.

For the purpose [of establishing this reality, i.e. at-Tawhēed] the creation was created, the Messengers (Alaihimus-Salām) were missioned, and the Revealed Books were sent down; by it people are divided into believers and disbelievers; and it is the main point and substance of the invitation of the Messengers (Alaihimus-Salām) and the core-essence of their divine messages; it is the greatest favor of Allāh upon His worshippers. Concerning this, Sufyān ibn ‘Uyainah (Raḥimahullāh) said: ‘**Allāh has not bestowed upon any one of His worshippers any favor or bounty greater than teaching them *Lā ilāha illAllāh*.** [Mentioned by Ibn Rajab in ‘Kalimatu-l-Ikhlās’, pg. 53]

The statement *Lā ilāha illAllāh* is the statement of *Ikh-lās* and *Tawhēed*, the rejection of *Shirk*, and disavowal of *Shirk* and its people. Allāh, the Most High, says:

وَإِذْ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ لِأَبِيهِ وَقَوْمِهِ إِنَّنِي بَرَاءٌ مِّمَّا تَعْبُدُونَ (26) إِلَّا الَّذِي فَطَرَنِي فَإِنَّهُ سَيَهْدِينِ (27)  
وَجَعَلَهَا كَلِمَةً بَاقِيَةً فِي عَقْبِهِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ (28)

“And remember when Ibrāheem said to his father and his people:

‘Verily, I am innocent of what you worship, except Him (i.e. I worship none but Allāh Alone) Who did create me; and verily, He will guide me.’ And he made it (i.e. *Lā ilāha illAllāh*) a Word lasting among his offspring, that they may turn back (i.e. to repent to Allāh or receive admonition).” [Qur’ān, 43:26-28]

So, if a person reaches the morning while he is in compliance with this glorious word [i.e. *Lā ilāha illAllāh*] – without having changed (it) or exchanged (it) - then, he has indeed reached the morning in the best possible condition. And due to the great importance of beginning the day with this magnificent word, the encouragement to increase its recitation many times every morning has been mentioned. The reward for one who recites it ten (10) times when he reaches the morning, and the reward of one who recites it one hundred (100) times when he reaches the morning has been mentioned previously [i.e. Supplication Number Nine, pages 49-51].

The Prophet’s (SallAllāhu Alaihi wa Sallam) saying: ‘...and upon the **Deen (religion) of our Prophet Muḥammad (SallAllāhu Alaihi wa Sallam) ...**’ means: We have reached the morning in accord with that glorious *Deen*, which Allāh is pleased with as the *Way of Life* for His worshippers; and which He sent His Noble Prophet Muḥammad (SallAllāhu Alaihi wa Sallam) with. He – the One Free of Imperfections – said, concerning this Deen:

الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتَمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا

“This day I have perfected for you your *Deen*, completed upon you My Favor, and chosen for you al-Islām as a *Way of Life*.” [Qur’ān, 5:3]

And Allāh, the One Free from All Imperfections, said:

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ

“Verily, the *Way of Life* with Allāh is al-Islām.” [Qur’ān, 3:19]

He, the One Free of All Imperfections, also said:

وَمَنْ يَبْتَغِ غَيْرَ الْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ وَهُوَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ (85)

“And whoever desires other than al-Islām as a *Way of Life*, then it will never be accepted from him; and in the Hereafter he will be of the losers (i.e. the dwellers of the Hell-Fire).” [Qur’ān, 3:85]

So, this is the *Deen* (Way of Life) of the Noble Prophet Muḥammad (SallAllāhu Alaihi wa Sallam) – i.e. submission to Allāh upon Tawḥeed, willing compliance and surrender to Him through obedience, and disassociation from *ash-Shirk* (associating anyone or anything as a partner with Him) and disassociation from the people of *Shirk*. Indeed, it is an enormous Favor of Allāh, the Majestic, the Exalted, upon His worshipping servant that he reaches the morning while he is in accord with this Magnificent Way of Life and this Straight Path: the Path of those upon whom Allāh has bestowed His Favors, not the path of those upon whom is the anger of Allāh, nor those who have gone astray.

Allāh, the Most High, in reminding His worshipping servants who He caused to love this blessing, and favored them with it, says:

وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ حَبَّبَ إِلَيْكُمُ الْإِيمَانَ وَزَيَّنَهُ فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ وَكَرَّهَ إِلَيْكُمُ الْكُفْرَ وَالْفُسُوقَ وَالْعِصْيَانَ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ  
الرَّاشِدُونَ (7) فَضْلًا مِنَ اللَّهِ وَنِعْمَةً وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ (8)

“But Allāh has endeared the Faith to you and has beautified it in your hearts, and has made disbelief, wickedness and disobedience (to Allāh and His Messenger) hateful to you. Such are they who are rightly guided. This is a Bounty from Allāh and a Favor. And Allāh is All-Knowing and All-Wise.” [Qur’ān, 49:7, 8]

And Allāh, the Most High, said:

وَلَوْلَا فَضْلُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَتُهُ مَا زَكَا مِنْكُمْ مِنْ أَحَدٍ أَبَدًا وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ يُزَكِّي مَنْ يَشَاءُ  
وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ (21)

“And were it not for the Favor of Allāh and His Mercy upon you, not one of you would ever have been pure from sins. But Allāh purifies (guides to Islam) whom He wills, and Allāh is All-Hearer, All-Knower.” [Qur’ān, 24:21]

To Allāh belongs the Most Splendid of Favors and the Most Majestic of Blessings!

The Prophet’s (SallAllāhu Alaihi wa Sallam) saying: ‘...and upon the *Mil-lah* (creed/way) of our forefather, Ibraheem, who was *Haneefan* (inclined toward true faith) *Musliman* (in total submission) and was not of those who associate others with Allāh’ – means: I have reached the morning being upon this Blessed *Millah*, the Creed and Way of Ibrāheem (Alaihis-Salām) *Khaleel ar-Rahmān* (the Most Beloved of the Most Merciful) – which is *al-Haneefeeyah as-Samḥah* (the Upright, Tolerant Way), strictly adhering to al-Islām, and remaining far-removed from *ash-Shirk* (associating anyone or anything with Allāh).

For this reason, he (SallAllāhu Alaihi wa Sallam) said: ‘...*he was Haneefan* (inclined toward true faith) *Musliman* (in total submission) and he was not of those who associate others with Allāh’. This is a Blessed *Millah* (Creed and Way of life) which no one leaves and no one dislikes except someone who judges (i.e. declares) himself to be misguided and foolish. For this reason, Allāh, the Most High, said:

وَمَنْ يَرْغَبْ عَنِ مِلَّةِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِلَّا مَنْ سَفِهَ نَفْسَهُ

“And who [i.e. no one] turns away from the creed of Ibrāheem (Tawheed) except him who makes a fool of himself?...” [Qur’ān, 2:130]

Indeed, Allāh, the Mighty, the Majestic, has commanded His Prophet (SallAllāhu Alaihi wa Sallam) to follow this *Millah* (Creed/Way), and has guided him (SallAllāhu Alaihi wa Sallam) to it, as He, the Most High, said:

قُلْ إِنِّي هَدَانِي رَبِّي إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ دِينًا قَيْمًا مِلَّةَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ حَنِيفًا وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ (161)

“Say: Verily, my Lord has guided me to a Straight Path, a Right Religion [with no crookedness in it], the Way of Ibrāheem, *Haneefan* (inclining toward true faith). And he was not among those who associated others with Allāh.” [Qur’ān, 6:161]

Allāh, the Exalted, reminding His worshipping servants of this Favor, said:

وَجَاهِدُوا فِي اللَّهِ حَقَّ جِهَادِهِ هُوَ اجْتَبَاكُمْ وَمَا جَعَلَ عَلَيْكُمْ فِي الدِّينِ مِنْ حَرَجٍ مِلَّةَ أَبِيكُمْ إِبْرَاهِيمَ

“...And strive hard in Allāh’s Cause as you ought to strive (with sincerity and with all your efforts...). He has chosen you (to convey His Message of Islamic Monotheism to mankind by inviting them to His religion of Islam) and has not laid upon you in religion any hardship; it is the *Millah* (Creed/Way) of your father Ibrāheem...” [Qur’ān, 22:78]

Hence, if/when the worshipping servant (of Allāh) reaches the morning in a state of compliance with this Blessed *Millah* (Creed/Way), *al-Haneefeyah as-Samḥah* (the Upright, Tolerant Way) – then, he has indeed reached the morning in a condition of immense goodness and an all-comprehensive grace, favor and bounty.

So, how beautiful and splendid it is for a Muslim to open his day with these blessed words! And a day which has begun with such words, the likes of this – from a sincere and truthful heart – what an Honorable Day!!!

Taken from: ‘*Explanation of the Morning & Evening Adhkaar*’

(Words of Remembrance of the Prophet Muhammad SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam)

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