

The Best Religion For Mankind

فضل الاسلام

Written by
Shaykh-ul-Islam Muhammad Ibn 'Abdul Wahhaab
(May Allah have mercy upon him)

Explained by
Shaykh Saalih Ibn Fawzan Ibn 'Abdullah Al-Fawzan
(May Allah preserve him)

The Best Religion for Mankind

© Daarul Isnaad Publications, A Product of Eve's Edition.

First Edition, May 2010/Jumada Al-Akhir 1431 H

All rights reserved. No part of this book can be reproduced in any form.

Cover Design: Muslim Mobile Designs 267-259-4431

Printed By: Sanatec Printing, Flushing, NY

Published by: Daarul Isnaad & Authentic Statements

Translated by: Daarul Isnaad

Website: <http://evesedition.ning.com/>

www.authenticstatements.com

P. 267-334-0813 or 215.382-3382

ISBN: 978-0-9826475-1-6

Subject: Aqeedah

The Best Religion for Mankind

قال عبد الله بن المبارك :

الإسناد من الدين و لولا الإسناد لقال من شاء ما شاء

The Isnaad is from the Religion; and if it weren't
for the Isnaad, anyone would say what he or she
wanted

-Abdullah bin Al-Mubaraak Died 181 Hijra

The Best Religion for Mankind

Table of Contents

The Superiority of Islam.....	pg.7
The Obligation of entering into Islam.....	pg.28
The Explanation of Islam.....	pg.43
The Statement of Allah (And whoever seeks a religion other than Islam, it will never be accepted of him, and in the Hereafter he will be one of the losers.).....	pg.51
The obligation of being satisfied with following The Book besides everything other than it.....	pg.57
What has been reported concerning leaving the Call of Islam.....	pg.61
The Obligation of entering Islam entirely and Abandoning everything other than it.....	pg.74
What has been reported concerning innovation Being worse than the major sins.....	pg.84
What has been narrated concerning the Practitioner of innovation being prevented from Repentance.....	pg.96

The Best Religion for Mankind

The statement of Allah: **"O people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians)! Why do you Dispute about Ibrahim?"**pg.99

The Statement of Allah: **So set you (O Muhammad) your face towards the religion (of pure Islamic Monotheism) Hanif (worship none but Allah Alone)**.....pg.106

What has been reported about the Strangeness Of Islam and the virtue of the Strangers.....pg.123

The warning against innovations.....pg.129

Baab: Fadh Islam
***Chapter: The Superiority of
Islam***

The Best Religion for Mankind

The superiority of Islam¹

¹ All praise is due to Allah, The Lord and Cherisher of all that exist, may the peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and all of his companions.

The Religion (**Deen**) consists of three levels.

First level is Islam

Second level is Eemaan

Third level is Ihsaan

Just as it comes in the Hadith of Abu Hurairah that one day the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم),

Came out to the people and Jibreel approach him and ask him: 'What is Eemaan? The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said: "Eemaan is that you believe in Allah, His angels, the meeting with Him and His messengers, and that you believe in the Day of Judgment. He said: 'What is Islam? He said: 'Islam is that you worship Allah alone, without associating any partners with Him, that you establish the Prayer, you give the Legislated Zakaat, and you fast the month of Ramadan. He said: 'What is Ihsaan? He said: 'Ihsaan is that you worship Allah as if you see Him, and if you cannot see Him then know that He see you- Until the end of the Hadith... So these are the levels of the Religion.¹

The first chapter the Author begins with in his book is **the Superiority of Islam.**

The Best Religion for Mankind

Allah the Exalted says,

(الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتِمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضَيْتُ لَكُمْ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا)

This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My Favor upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion.²

² This verse was revealed to the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) while he was standing on 'Arafat during the farewell pilgrimage. It was the last verse from the Qur'an revealed to the messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم).

What this verse indicates is that the Messenger's death was not to come until after the completion of this Religion. It also contains a refutation against those who introduce things into the Religion which is not from it. So whoever brings something new into the religion it will be rejected.

Just as it has been affirmed in the Hadith of 'A'ishah (May Allah be please with her).

عَنْ أُمِّ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ أُمِّ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ عَائِشَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا، قَالَتْ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: مَنْ أَحْدَثَ فِي أَمْرِنَا هَذَا مَا لَيْسَ مِنْهُ فَهُوَ رَدٌّ رَوَاهُ الْبُخَارِيُّ،
وَمُسْلِمٌ

It is narrated on the authority of the Mother of the Believers, Umm 'Abdullah 'Aishah, that the

The Best Religion for Mankind

Messenger of Allah, صلى الله عليه وسلم said:

"Whosoever introduces into this affair of ours (i.e. into Islam) something that does not belong to it, it is to be rejected."

In addition to that, it is a refutation against those who view Islam to be deficient (due to their weak intellects) and say,

"Verily Islam is not suitable for each time and place,

This claim of theirs is similar to what those in these present times say,

"Verily Islam is for a certain people, a period of time that has past, and it is not suitable for these later times."

And with regards to the statement of Allah,

(الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ ۝)

(This day, I have perfected your religion for you)

This verse shows that Islam is suitable for every time and place; and that it is not the Religion that is deficient, rather the deficiency lies in the comprehension of the people. There is no Religion except Islam which is perfect and complete for the rectification of Mankind until the Hour is established.

(وَأَتَمَّمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي)

The Best Religion for Mankind

(Completed My Favor upon you,)

Meaning: Islam. This Religion (Islam) is the greatest blessing, which Allah has conferred upon mankind. Whoever accept this blessing (Islam) will benefit from it, and whoever does not accept it then the sin is upon him and he harms no one but himself, this is due to his refusing to accept this Blessing (Islam).

Then Allah says,

(وَرَضِيتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا)

(And have chosen for you Islam as your religion).

Al-Islam: that which Allah has mentioned in the beginning of this verse: **[This day, I have perfected your religion for you]**

Allah the Most High is please with it and has perfected it and chosen it for His servants; and He is not pleased with any religion other than it. Allah said in His book:

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ

(Truly, the religion with Allah is Islam.)

All the Religions after the coming of Islam, like Judaism and Christianity are nullified, and Allah the Most High is not pleased with them. Henceforth His statement:

The Best Religion for Mankind

مَنْ يَتَّبِعْ غَيْرَ الْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ وَهُوَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ

(And whoever seeks a religion other than Islam, it will never be accepted of him, and in the Hereafter he will be one of the losers.)

Verily contain within these two verses are a refutation against those who say in these present times:

“That the three religions, (Judaism, Christianity and Islam) all of them are true. All three religions is a direct connection to Allah.

This is a lie, which they have invented. After the coming of Islam there is no religion that is the Truth except Islam. Likewise the coming of the Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) and Islam abrogated the previous religions (Judaism and Christianity). There is no religion that remains which Allah is please with except Islam.

So whoever wants to enter the Paradise then let him hold firm onto Islam, and whoever desires a religion other than Islam, then for him is nothing but the fire. This is due to his refusing to accept the religion of Islam, which Allah has chosen for mankind. So it is obligatory upon mankind to follow what Allah has commanded them with in every time and place, indeed Allah has commanded the following of Islam:

قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ ۗ وَاللَّهُ

The Best Religion for Mankind

And Allah says,

Say (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم): "O you mankind! If you are in doubt as to my religion (Islam), then (know that) I will never worship those whom you worship besides Allah. But I worship Allah Who causes you to die. [Surah Yunus: 104]³

غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ
قُلْ أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ ۚ فَإِنْ تَوَلَّوْا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْكَافِرِينَ

Say (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم to mankind): "If you (really) love Allah then follow me (i.e. accept Islamic Monotheism, follow the Qur'an and the Sunnah), Allah will love you and forgive you your sins. And Allah is Off-Forgiving, Most Merciful."

Say (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم): "Obey Allah and the Messenger (Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم) But if they turn away, then Allah does not like the disbelievers."

³ The First verse, which the Author (May Allah mercy upon him) mentioned, is addressing the Believers, and the latter verse is addressing the Mushriks .

His saying: **(Say (meaning O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم): And His saying ("O you mankind! Meaning: "O you people".**

The Best Religion for Mankind

Allah also says, **O you who believe [in Musa (Moses) (i.e. Jews) and 'Isa (Jesus) (i.e. Christians)]! Fear Allah, and believe in His Messenger (Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم), He will give you a double portion of His Mercy, and**

to you from your Lord. So whosoever receives guidance, he does so for the good of his own self; and whosoever goes astray, he does so to his own loss; and I am not (set) over you as a Wakil (disposer of affairs to oblige you for guidance)."

And (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم), follow the revelation sent unto you, and be patient till Allah gives judgment. And He is the Best of judges. [Yunus:105-109]

These verses are tremendous, in that they contain within them that which separates the truth from falsehood and is free of any obscurity. The Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) worships Allah, and they (the Mushrikoon) worship other than Allah. Rather they worship those things that are created who don't possess anything nor control anything. This is the distinction between Tawheed and Shirk.

The Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) did not come with anything new, nor did he call to the worship of himself; he only calls to the worship of Allah the Most High. Therefore the Islam with which the messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) came with is to worship Allah alone and to abandon everything that is worship besides Him.

The Best Religion for Mankind

He will give you a light by which you shall walk (straight). And He will forgive you. And Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.⁴[Hadid:28]

⁴ This verse is addressing the people of the book (Jews and Christians)

(Fear Allah, and believe in His Messenger),
meaning: (Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم).

(He will give you a double portion of His Mercy), a reward for having Eemaan in the previous Messengers, and a reward for believing in the messenger (Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم). So those who believe from amongst the people of the book, they will be given a double reward, one for having Eemaan in the previous book and one for having Eemaan in the Qur'an, and this is a tremendous bounty.

Allah said in His noble book:

أُولَئِكَ يُؤْتَوْنَ أَجْرَهُمْ مَرَّتَيْنِ بِمَا صَبَرُوا

(These will be given their reward twice over, because they are patient). [Qasas:54]

(And He will give you a light) Meaning He will give you Insight (Baseerah).

(By which you shall walk (straight)). Meaning: Having the ability to be able to separate the Truth from the falsehood, Guidance from misguidance. The religion of Islam is light, the Qur'an is light and the Sunnah is light. For Allah said:

The Best Religion for Mankind

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ قَدْ جَاءَكُمْ بُرْهَانٌ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَأَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكُمْ نُورًا مُّبِينًا

O mankind! Verily, there has come to you a convincing proof (Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم) from your Lord; and We sent down to you a manifest light (this Qur'an). [Nisaa:174]

The one who walk with the guidance of the Qur'an walks with light, but the one who walks with other than the guidance of the Qur'an, then he walks in darkness and error -refuge is sought with Allah- even if that which he is upon is made fair-seeming to him, verily he is upon falsehood and misguidance. Having Eemaan in the Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) is the cause for possessing this true light; it is made easy for the one who walks with it.

(And He will forgive you. And Allah is Off-Forgiving, Most Merciful).

This is a great privilege which should encourage the people of the book into believing in (Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم) the one who came with the same thing his brethren's from amongst the Prophets came with, he called to that with which they call to: to worship Allah alone, and to abandon everything that is worship besides Allah. So it is amazing that they disobey and oppose him, when he did not come with anything that is in opposition to what their Prophets and Messengers came with. What this verse shows is that if one wants to enter into Islam, it is a must that he has Eemaan in this Messenger (Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم), and that whoever doesn't possess this

The Best Religion for Mankind

In the Saheeh it is narrated from Ibn 'Umar that the messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said,

“The comparison between you all (the Muslims) and the people of the two Scriptures (the Jews and Christians) is like a man who seeks to hire a worker. He says, 'Who will work for me from morning until noon for one qeeraat (monetary unit)? So the Jews worked. Then he says, 'Who will work for me from noon until the mid-afternoon ('Asr) prayer for one qeeraat? So the Christians worked. Then he says, 'Who will work from the mid-afternoon prayer until the sun sets for two qeeraats? So you all (the Muslims) are those (people). Thus, the Jews and Christians became angry and said, 'Why have we done more work but we have received less pay?' He (Allah) replied, 'Have I decreased anything from what was rightfully yours?' They answered, 'No.' He then said, 'that is My favor

Eemaan is not upon Islam but upon disbelief.

Also, what is shown in the verse is the virtue of the Believer from amongst the people of the book, those whom Allah have conferred a favor upon them, and who has accepted the Truth, Allah will give them a double portion and a tremendous merit.

The Best Religion for Mankind

It is also reported in the Saheeh from Abu Hurairah that the messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said,

“Allah misguided those who were before us concerning Jumu'ah (Friday). The Jews had Saturday and the Christians had Sunday. Then Allah brought us and He guided us to Jumu'ah (Friday). Likewise, they (the Jews and Christians) will be after us on the Day of Judgment. We are the last religious nation of the people of this world, but we will be the first on the Day of Judgment.”⁶

⁶ This Hadith is another proof that shows the superiority of Islam and its people; they will be the best of the people on the Day of Judgment. The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) had clarified that on the Day of Jumu'ah (Friday) Allah the Exalted, has made for the previous nations a day from out of the week in which they can choose to worship Him. So the Jews they chose Saturday. And they said in their exaggeration that, 'Verily it is a Day that Allah chose to rest in; after a while He became tired from creating the Heavens and the Earth. Whereas He created them in six days; He began on Sunday and finish on Friday; they said, 'Saturday is a day in which Allah wanted to rest, so they took this Day for their worship. Indeed they lied against Allah.

The Best Religion for Mankind

And in the Saheeh it is narrated that the Prophet said, **“The most beloved faith to Allah is the**

Allah said;

وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا فِي سِتَّةِ أَيَّامٍ وَمَا مَسَّنَا مِنْ لُغُوبٍ

And indeed We created the heavens and the earth and all between them in six Days and nothing of fatigue touched Us. [Qaaf:38]

Meaning: no fatigue. This verse refutes them in their exaggerating falsehood; that Allah rested on Saturday.

Sunday is the day chosen by the Christians, They said, ' this is the Day Allah has begun creation, and it is the first day from out the six, so they chose it for that reason.

As regards to this Ummah Allah is the One Who have chosen Jumu'ah for them, for it is the most virtuous of days. It is the Day Allah completed the creation; the Day Allah created Adam (A.S.); and he was expelled from Paradise; and it is the Day on which the Hour will be establish. A tremendous Day, which Allah has chosen for this Ummah.

The Jews and Christians envy the Muslims because of this, and they do not envy anyone as much as they do the Muslims over this Day (Friday), which Allah have chosen specifically for the Muslims. Allah has misguided the Jews and Christians from it.

The Best Religion for Mankind

to worship none but Allah Alone). [Nisaa:125]

The religion of Ibrahim (عليه وسلم) is the same religion of Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم) Allah says,

مَا كَانَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ يَهُودِيًّا وَلَا نَصْرَانِيًّا وَلَكِنْ كَانَ حَنِيفًا مُّسْلِمًا وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ

Ibrahim (Abraham) was neither a Jew nor a Christian, but he was a true Muslim Hanifa (Islamic Monotheism - to worship none but Allah Alone) and he was not of Al-Mushrikun [Aali Imraan:67]

The Jews claim that Ibrahim is a Jew, when the Torah was not revealed to after him. Indeed it was revealed to Musa and between him and Ibrahim is a long period of time.

The Christians say, ' That Ibrahim is a Christian.' And Judaism and Christianity weren't revealed until after him. Allah refuted them with His saying:

مَا كَانَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ يَهُودِيًّا وَلَا نَصْرَانِيًّا وَلَكِنْ كَانَ حَنِيفًا مُّسْلِمًا وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ

Ibrahim (Abraham) was neither a Jew nor a Christian, but he was a true Muslim Hanifa (Islamic Monotheism - to worship none but Allah Alone) and he was not of Al-Mushrikun.

Haneefiyah is the religion of Ibrahim, and it is the

The Best Religion for Mankind

It is reported from Ubay bin Ka'b that he said, **"You all must adhere to the Path and the Sunnah. For verily, there is no servant (of Allah) who is upon the Path and the Sunnah, and who remembers Allah, thus causing his eyes to overflow with tears due to the fear of Allah, except that the Fire (of Hell) will not touch him. And there is no servant (of Allah) who is upon the Path and the Sunnah of the Most Merciful (Allah), and his skin shivers due to the fear of Allah, except that he will be like a tree with leaves that have dried. His sins will fall from him just like the leaves of this tree fall from it. Verily, moderation in (following) the Sunnah is better than much effort (i.e. hard work) in opposing the Path and the Sunnah."**⁸

most beloved Religion to Allah.

⁸ This is a narration (Aathar) from Ubay Ibn Ka'b concerning the superiority of Islam.

He said: " If a person is upon the correct path and is firm upon the Sunnah of Muhammad (صلى الله عليه) (وسلم), and if he weeps he do so out the fear of Allah, then the fire will not touch him. However if he fears Allah and he is not upon the Sunnah (meaning he is upon innovation). Then his weeping, humbleness and awe will not benefit him. Many from amongst the Christians weep and have humility, however they are not upon the guidance rather they are upon

The Best Religion for Mankind

It is reported from Abu Ad-Dardaa' that he said, " How wonderful is the sleep and the eating of the intelligent ones. How is it that they criticize the wakeful vigilance and fasting of the foolish people? An atom's weight of righteousness with piety (fear of Allah) and conviction is greater, more virtuous and better

misguidance. Likewise, many from the grave worshippers and people of innovation weep perfidiously, however they are not rewarded for their weeping, and it doesn't benefit them with Allah. This is due to their not being upon the Sunnah. It is not consider a sign of piety that a man weeps and show humility, but it is only consider being a sign of piety if they do it according to the Book and Sunnah.

Then Ubay Ibn Ka'b said at the end of his words, ("Verily, moderation in (following) the Sunnah is better than much effort (i.e. hard work) in opposing the Path and the Sunnah.")

There will be much good in the action if it is done according to the Sunnah. As for striving with much effort while being upon innovation, then this does not benefit its doer, even if he was to strive night and day. He is traversing upon a path that is other than the Sunnah. So doing a lot of actions, is not sign of fearing Allah, nor is weeping much, it is only when you do it according to the Book and the Sunnah, even if the action is small.

The Best Religion for Mankind

than the worship performed by those who deceived (i.e. misguided people) are."⁹

⁹ This narration of Abu Ad-Dardaa' resembles the narration Ubay ibn Ka'b in meaning completely. It is that the one with a sound 'Aqeedah (belief system), in his sleep he is better than the one with a corrupt 'Aqeedah, who stand up in Salaat praying the superogatory prayers. The person of the Sunnah is upon good in his sleeping and eating, while the person of innovation, while he is awakens and fasting is corrupted, Due to his being upon a path other than guidance.

The Best Religion for Mankind

Imraan:19]

Also His saying,

وَأَنَّ هَذَا صِرَاطِي مُسْتَقِيمًا فَاتَّبِعُوهُ ۖ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا السُّبُلَ فَتَفَرَّقَ بِكُمْ عَنْ
{سَبِيلِهِ}

"And verily, this is My Straight Path, so follow it, and follow not (other) paths, for they will separate you away from His Path.¹³

worshiped it, he'd done so only out of the worship of Allah. Likewise, the Tawaaf around the Ka'bah is not done out of worshiping it, it is only done out following the commands of Allah and worshiping Him. And all of these affairs are that which leads to complying with Allah's commands and that which He has legislated, and not to oppose any of it. Indeed Iblees (May the curse of Allah be upon him) has oppose the commands of his Lord, verily his abode is the fire, and he is rejected, cast away, cursed and is under Allah's anger-and refuge is sought from Allah-.

¹³ Allah says,

(وَأَنَّ هَذَا صِرَاطِي مُسْتَقِيمًا)

("And verily, this is My Straight Path) The word Siraat: means a way, a path; however what is intended here is Islam: for it is the way of Allah the Exalted, and it is a way that is straight, wherein there are neither curves nor crookedness. It is only balance (a middle course) neither excessiveness nor

The Best Religion for Mankind

[An'aam:153]

Mujaahid said, "As-Subul (the paths) means the

negligence.

(So follow it), Means: do not follow any other religion besides Islam, or any other Sunnah than that of Messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم), for verily this is My (Allah) straight path, and it is My (Allah) way.

(وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا السُّبُلَ فَتَفَرَّقَ بِكُمْ عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ)

(And follow not (other) paths, for they will separate you away from His Path).

O mankind reflect!! The path of Allah is one, and there are many paths besides Allah, following doubts and desires, each one calling to their path, their way, their methodology and the final outcome for all of them is loss.

(فَتَفَرَّقَ بِكُمْ عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ)

(For they will separate you away from His Path).

Anyone who embarks upon the path that is One will be saved by Allah the Exalted; For you have been commanded to traverse upon the path of Islam, and to abandon everything other than it from innovations, methodologies and groups, for all of it leads to destruction.

The Best Religion for Mankind

innovations and the doubtful matters."¹⁴

It is narrated on the authority of the Mother of the Believers, Umm 'Abdullah 'Aishah that the Messenger of Allah, صلى الله عليه وسلم, said:

"Whosoever introduces into this affair of ours (i.e. into Islam) something that does not belong to it, it is to be rejected." [Al-Bukhari & Muslim] According to the version in Muslim, (it reads): "Whosoever works a work which has for it no command of ours is to be rejected."¹⁵

¹⁴ Innovations and doubts are from those paths that lead to separating and splitting up into groups, Allah says,

كُلُّ حِزْبٍ بِمَا لَدَيْهِمْ فَرِحُونَ

(Each group rejoicing in what is with it (as its beliefs). [Mu'minoon:53]

Such is a befitting punishment, because they are please with falsehood. If someone is please with falsehood then he will never abandon it, as for the one who is upon falsehood and he is not please with it, then it is possible he will search for the Truth and be guided to it. However the one who is satisfied and please with falsehood will never be guided.

¹⁵ Meaning: it is rejected from him and it is not accepted by Allah. His saying:

The Best Religion for Mankind

the Haram (Makkah), one who seeks to introduce the Sunnah (way, tradition, custom) of pre-Islamic ignorance (Jaahiliyyah) into Islam, and one who seeks to shed the blood of a Muslim man without the right to do so." (Al-Bukhaaree)¹⁷

¹⁷ The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) saying: (**" The most hated people**) this affirms that Allah does hate, He the Exalted, hates the people of evil and disbelief, and He loves the people of Taqwa and Eemaan. The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) saying: (**A deviant (religious heretic) in the sanctuary of the Haram (Makkah),**

Al-Ihaad: means to deviate. However what is intended here is to deviate from the obedience of Allah to disobedience. Evil acts are impermissible in every time and place. And to do them in the Haram is even worse, for it was made sacred by Allah. It is a place that Allah commanded the people to sanctified, and the people are made safe within it, and no one can transgress against anyone. Likewise, the cutting of the trees is impermissible in the Haram. So how much more so, the shedding of the people's blood and transgressing against them?! What is worse than that, is to commit shirk in the Haram, and calling on other than Allah the Exalted. Practicing acts of innovation in the Haram. Allah said in His noble book,

وَمَنْ يُرِدْ فِيهِ بِالْحَادِ بِظُلْمٍ نُذِقْهُ مِنْ عَذَابِ أَلِيمٍ

And whoever inclines to evil actions therein or to do wrong (i.e. practice polytheism and leave Islamic Monotheism), him We shall cause to taste from a painful torment. [Hajj:25]

The Best Religion for Mankind

Ibn Taymiyyah said, " His statement: 'the Sunnah of pre-Islamic ignorance, 'all types of pre-Islamic ignorance are included in this, restrictively or without restriction. This means that some aspects of it may be in some people and not in others-- whether it is from the ways of the People of the Scripture (i.e. Christians and Jews), the ways of the idol worshippers, or other than them, from every type of opposition to what the Messengers came with.'¹⁸

And those who invoke not any other Ilah (god) along with Allah, nor kill such person as Allah has forbidden, except for just cause, nor commit illegal sexual intercourse - and whoever does this shall receive the punishment.

The torment will be doubled to him on the Day of Resurrection, and he will abide therein in disgrace;

Except those who repent and believe (in Islamic Monotheism), and do righteous deeds; for those, Allah will change their sins into good deeds, and Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful. [Furqaan:68-70]

¹⁸ Meaning: Shaykh-ul-Islam (may Allah have mercy upon him) explains the ways of pre-Islamic ignorance, he clarified it in a more general sense, by including all types of pre-Islamic ignorance, whether it is done

The Best Religion for Mankind

The Explanation of Islam²¹

Allah says,

So if they dispute with you (Muhammad ﷺ) say: "I have submitted myself to Allah

abstaining from the Scholars and degrading them, by speaking ill of their honor. This is from the signs of the hour.

²¹The Author now explains after the two previous chapters which dealt with the Merits of Islam and the obligation of accepting and holding firm to it, what Islam is. The fact that you praise a thing doesn't necessary means that you clarified the reality of it. So it necessitates that he explain what is Islam. In order for no one to claim that what he is upon is Islam, while in truth, he is upon that which is in opposition to Islam.

All sects claim that each one of them is upon Islam, and that those other than them are not upon Islam.

If the affair has been left to them they would have destroy the Ummah. However from the bounty of Allah is that He has clarified what Islam is. Islam is not a claim. However the Muslim is the one who holds firm to Islam in truth. So it is incumbent upon you to know that Islam is that which comes from two sources, (the book of Allah and the Sunnah of His Prophet (ﷺ)), and not from other than them.

The Best Religion for Mankind

(in Islam), and (so have) those who follow me."²² [Aali Imraan:30]

²² Allah says, **So if they dispute with you (Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم) meaning:** the Christians. This verse clarifies the meaning of Islam, which is that you surrender yourself to Allah alone, making your intentions sincerely for Him and absolving yourself from joining partners with Allah (shirk).

As for the one who practice shirk, like calling on the dead in their graves, while saying, "I am a Muslim." In truth this person is not a Muslim, because he has not submitted himself to Allah, rather he had surrender himself to other than Allah, by supplicating to other than Allah and sacrificing, slaughtering to other than Allah. Allah said:

بَلَىٰ مَنْ أَسْلَمَ وَجْهَهُ لِلَّهِ وَهُوَ مُحْسِنٌ

Yes, but whoever submits his face (himself) to Allah (i.e. follows Allah's Religion of Islamic Monotheism) and he is a Muhsin) [Baqarah:112]
His saying,

مَنْ أَسْلَمَ وَجْهَهُ لِلَّهِ

Whoever submits his face (himself) to Allah: This is Tawheed (singling Allah out in all worship) and His saying, **And he is a Muhsin** Meaning he follows the Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) for following the Messenger in that which he came with is actualizing Islam. Islam is to make your worship sincerely for

The Best Religion for Mankind

abandon shirk. And to bear witness that Muhammad is the messenger of Allah means that you follow his Sunnah and abandon innovation and newly invented matters.

The Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) is to be taken as an example; this is due to Allah saying in His noble book,

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ

Indeed in the Messenger of Allah (Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم) You have a good example to follow: [Ahzaab:21]

As for the hypocrites then they bear witness that Muhammad is the messenger of Allah with their mouths, while they disbelieve in him with their hearts and actions. Allah said concerning them:

إِذَا جَاءَكَ الْمُنَافِقُونَ قَالُوا نَشْهَدُ إِنَّكَ لَرَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ إِنَّكَ لَرَسُولُهُ
وَاللَّهُ يَشْهَدُ إِنَّ الْمُنَافِقِينَ لَكَاذِبُونَ
اتَّخَذُوا أَيْمَانَهُمْ جُنَّةً

When the hypocrites come to you (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم), they say: "We bear witness that you are indeed the Messenger of Allah." Allah knows that you are indeed His Messenger, and Allah bears witness that the hypocrites are liars indeed. [Munaafiqoon:1]

They have made their oaths a screen (for their

The Best Religion for Mankind

It is also narrated in the Saheeh from Abu Hurairah that the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said, "The Muslim is he whom the Muslims are safe from his tongue and hand."²⁴

It is reported from Bahz bin Hakeem, who reported from his father, who reported from his grandfather that the Messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) was asked about Islam. So he said, "It is that you submit your heart unto Allah, and you turn your face to Allah, and you pray the

وَمَنْ كَفَرَ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَنِيٌّ عَنِ الْعَالَمِينَ

And whoever disbelieves [i.e. denies Hajj (pilgrimage to Makkah), then he is a disbeliever of Allah], then Allah stands not in need of any of the 'Alamin (mankind, jinn and all that exists). [Aali Imraan:97]

As for the one who recognizes the obligation of performing Hajj, however he doesn't do it out of laziness, then it is upon the Ruler to compel him to do it.

²⁴ The one who withhold his harm from the people he is a Muslim who has completed his Islam. As for the one who harms the people with his tongue or hands, then we do not say, "That he has disbelieved." However he is a Muslim who has some deficiencies in Islam.

The Best Religion for Mankind

obey you in that, then inform them that Allah has enjoined that the Sadaqah is to be taken from their rich and given to the poor. The saying: ("It is that you submit your heart unto Allah), this is like the verse,

(فَقُلْ أَسْلَمْتُ وَجْهِيَ لِلَّهِ

(Say: "I have submitted myself to Allah), also the verse,

(بَلَىٰ مَنْ أَسْلَمَ وَجْهَهُ لِلَّهِ

(Yes, but whoever submits his face (himself) to Allah),

Verily these two verses contain a clear indication to make your worship sincerely for Allah and to abandon all that is worship besides Him. This is the foundation of Islam.

(And that the Muslims are safe from your tongue and your hand). This is like the previous Hadith. In regards to his saying, ("What Islam is the best?" The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said, "Faith (Al-Eemaan)."

In the Hadith of Jib reel the messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) has placed Eemaan a level above Islam more specifically.

(The questioner then said, "What is Eemaan?" The Prophet replied, "It is that you believe in Allah), This is similar to that which comes in the Hadith of Jibrerel (صلى الله عليه السلام), when he asked the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) "What is Eemaan?" like Islam Eemaan have pillars; however Eemaan is broader, it comprises of that which is obligatory and that which is recommended.

The Best Religion for Mankind

It has been narrated from Abu Hurairah that the Messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said,

"The deeds will come on the Day of Judgment; so the prayer (Salah) will come and say, 'O Lord! I am prayer (Salah).' So Allah will say, 'Verily, you are upon goodness.' The fasting will come and He (Allah) will say, 'Verily, you are upon goodness.' Then the (other) deeds will come like that, and He (Allah) will say, 'Verily, you are upon goodness.' Then Islam will come and it will say, 'O Lord! Verily, You are As-Salaam (the One free of all faults) and I am Islam.' So He (Allah) will say, 'Verily, you are upon goodness. Today I will take (accept) because of you, and I will give (reward) because of you.'

Allah the Most High says,

**"And whoever seeks a religion other than Islam, it will never be accepted of him, and in the Hereafter he will be one of the losers.'
[Ahmad]²⁷**

²⁷The Hadith of Abu Hurairah is clear, because there is no religion that Allah will accept on the Day of Judgment except Islam. And the statement of Allah

The Best Religion for Mankind

(صلى الله عليه وسلم) whom they find written with them in the Taurat (Torah) (Deut, xviii 15) and the Injeel (Gospel) (John xiv, 16) , - he commands them for Al-Ma'ruf (i.e. Islamic Monotheism and all that Islam has ordained); and forbids them from Al-Munkar (i.e. disbelief, polytheism of all kinds, and all that Islam has forbidden); he allows them as lawful At-Tayyibat (i.e. all good and lawful as regards things, deeds, beliefs, persons, foods), and prohibits them as unlawful Al-Khaba'ith (i.e. all evil and unlawful as regards things, deeds, beliefs, persons and foods), he releases them from their heavy burdens (of Allah's Covenant with the children of Israel), and from the fetters (bindings) that were upon them. So those who believe in him (Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم), honor him, help him, and follow the light (the Qur'an) which has been sent down with him, it is they who will be successful. [A'raf:157]

Verily, this verse indicates that those who do not follow the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) will never be successful, and they are the losers.

The Best Religion for Mankind

The obligation of being satisfied with following The Book besides everything other than it

Allah says,

**"And We have sent down to you the Book (the
Qur'an) as an exposition of everything." ²⁸**

²⁸ Meaning: The Qur'an and Sunnah which We have revealed to you (addressing the Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم)). Also, what is indicated by this verse is that the Qur'an is the speech of Allah which He has sent down and it is not created like the Jahmiyyah say. For Allah did not say: "We did not create for you (Muhammad) a Book." Rather He said:

("And We have sent down to you the Book)
meaning: The Qur'an.

(تَبَيَّنَا لِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ)

(As an exposition of everything)"

Allah the Most High has explained that this religion is the only religion He will accept from His servants.

وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً وَبُشْرَىٰ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ

A guidance, a mercy, and glad tidings for those

The Best Religion for Mankind

[Nahl:89]

An-Nasaa'ee and others have recorded that the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) saw a page of the Torah in the hand of 'Umar bin Al-Khattaab, so he said,

"Have you all become Mutahawwikon (one who has fallen into something without proper consideration, or who is confused) O Ibn Al-Khattaab?! Indeed I have brought it (guidance) to you all, white and clean. If Musa were alive and you all followed him and abandon me, you would have gone astray."²⁹

who have submitted themselves (to Allah as Muslims).

It is a guidance and mercy for the Believers and a proof against the disbelievers.

²⁹ The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said to his Ummah, "If Musa (عليه الصلاة والسلام) the one whom Allah spoken to directly and made His messenger was alive, and all you followed him instead of me you would have gone astray. Glory be to Allah! They would have gone astray even though they were following a messenger! Yes, because this messenger period has ended, and there came a period of another messenger, and he is Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم).

Man has been commanded to obey the commands of Allah whosoever he may be.

Allah the Most High has abrogated the previous

The Best Religion for Mankind

In another narration he said,

"If Musa were alive, he would have no choice but to follow me." 'Umar then said, "I am pleased with Allah as my Lord, Islam as my religion, and Muhammad as my Prophet."³⁰

يَمْحُو اللَّهُ مَا يَشَاءُ وَيُنْبِتُ ۖ وَعِنْدَهُ أُمُّ الْكِتَابِ

Allah blots out what He wills and confirms (what He wills). And with Him is the Mother of the Book (Al-Lauh Al-Mahfuz). [R'ad:39]

³⁰ 'Umar then said, "I am pleased with Allah as my Lord, Islam as my religion, and Muhammad as my Prophet."

Man is obligated not to hesitate when the truth is made clear to him from accepting it. For this reason 'Umar were directed to the Truth; for he thought that this sheet of paper from the Taurah, had some truth to it so he were amaze by it. However when the Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) clarified the Truth to him, he exclaimed,

"I am pleased with Allah as my Lord, Islam as my religion, and Muhammad as my Prophet."

It is binding upon man to rush to accept the Truth when it is made clear to him and if he delays his acceptance it is most likely that his heart will go astray. For Allah said:

The Best Religion for Mankind

What has been reported concerning leaving the Call of Islam³¹

وَنَقَلُّبُ أَفْئِدَتَهُمْ وَأَبْصَارَهُمْ كَمَا لَمْ يُؤْمِنُوا بِهِ أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ وَنَدَّرُهُمْ فِي طُغْيَانِهِمْ
يَعْمَهُونَ

And We shall turn their hearts and their eyes away (from guidance), as they refused to believe therein for the first time, and We shall leave them in their trespass to wander blindly. [An'aam:110]

This verse indicates that it is falsehood to follow the previous revealed books because they have been abrogated by the Qur'an.

³¹Verily, this chapter highlights an important point for the one who ascribes himself to Islam in name only; meanwhile he has left it due to his embarking upon those things that nullify his Islam. So he considers himself to be a Muslim when in all actuality he is not.

An example of this: is the one who bear witness that nothing has the right to be worship except Allah, and that Muhammad is His messenger, prays and fasts, outwardly this is a Muslim, however if he calls on other than Allah, or seek aid from other than Allah, or slaughter to other than Allah, then he has committed shirk with Allah and has left the religion of Islam.

The Scholars has explained Islam to be; to submit to

The Best Religion for Mankind

Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said,

“I command you all with five things that Allah has commanded me with: to listen (to those in authority), to obey (those in authority), to wage jihaad (fighting in the way of Allah), to make Hijrah (migration to the lands of the Muslims), and adherence to the Jama'ah (the Muslim body or community). For whoever separates from the Jamaa'ah even a hand span, then he has removed the noose of Islam from around his neck, unless he comes back. And whoever calls with the call of the days of ignorance (i.e. racism, tribalism, bigoted partisanship, etc.), then verily, he is from the dwellers of Hell.” A man said, “O Messenger of Allah! Even if he prays and fasts?” The Prophet replied, “Even if he prays and fasts. So call with the call of Allah, Who named you Muslims, believers (Mu'mineen), and slaves of Allah.”³³

³³There comes in this hadeeth that the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said: (“I command you all with five things):

The First thing: listen and obey the one who is in charge of the affairs of the Muslims, because the affairs of the Muslims cannot remain upright except by way of listening and obeying the Ruler. The Muslims cannot expect rectification as long as they remain upon separating and differing. It is a must that they unite upon Tauheed, and this unity cannot be achieved except under an Imam or Ruler. Imamate or

The Best Religion for Mankind

ruler ship cannot occur except by way of listening and obeying, however, as long as it is not in disobedience.

Just as the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said: **"There is no obedience to the creation in disobedience to the Creator."**

Second thing: Al-Jihaad. Allah has commanded the Muslims first to invite to His way, (inviting the disbelievers and those who join partners with Allah to Islam) because this is the religion of Allah and everything besides it is falsehood.

It is a must that you call to this religion and whoever responds and accepts the call; all praise is due to Allah! And whoever refuses then it is a must for jihaad. Allah says in His book,

وَقَاتِلُوهُمْ حَتَّىٰ لَا تَكُونَ فِتْنَةً وَيَكُونَ الدِّينُ كُلُّهُ لِلَّهِ

And fight them until there is no more Fitnah (disbelief and polytheism, i.e. worshipping others besides Allah) and the religion (worship) will all be for Allah Alone [in the whole of the world].
[Anfaal:39]

It is not befitting that some of the religion is for Allah and some of it is for other than Allah, because He is the Creator, Provider, the One who gives life and death, and the Administrator of all the affairs; He is the only One deserving of worship. And there is no religion except the religion of Allah. Hence the saying of Allah:

أَفَغَيْرَ دِينِ اللَّهِ يَبْتَغُونَ وَلَهُ أَسْلَمَ

The Best Religion for Mankind

Concerning this, there is the hadith of the Khawaarij which has proceeded.

Also it is narrated that he (the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم) said,

"The family of Abu so-and-so are not my Awlijaa' (supporters, protectors). My Awlijaa' are only the Muttaqqoon." ⁵⁸

⁵⁸ The Messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) frees himself from those who are not upon the religion of tauheed, even if they be closely related to him. Meaning: he did not love them as long as they remain upon a religion other than his. However the Awlijaa' of the Messenger are the righteous, whether they are from his relatives or other than them. Salman Al-Faarisee, Bilal ibn Rabaah Al-Habashee and Suhaib Ar-Rumee they were not from his relatives.

They were only from amongst his supporters (Muwaaliy). In addition to this they became the closest of the people to the Messenger because they were believers; meanwhile Abu Lahab the Prophet's uncle and enemy didn't prevent the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) from disassociating from him.

The Issue is not a matter of relations. There is no nobility in being related to the Messenger without being upon his religion. As for when a person is upon Islam then for him is the nobility of relations and religion. So he gathers for himself two things that are noble. As for when he is not upon Islam, then his

The Best Religion for Mankind

Anas narrated that it was mentioned to the Messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) that one of the Companions had said, "I will not eat meat." Another one said, "I will stand all night in prayer and not sleep." Another one said, "I will not marry women." Another one said, "I will fast and not break my fast."

So the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said,

"But I stand at night for prayer, and I sleep, and I fast and I break my fast, and I marry women, and I eat meat. So whoever turns away from my sunnah, then he is not of me." ⁵⁹

relation does not benefit him. And were it not due to this the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) will not have disassociated himself from the family of Abu so-and-so. Therefore, his Awliyyaa are the Muttaqoon. (No matter their nationality). In the Hadith it states,

Whosoever is slowed down by his deeds will not be hastened forward by his lineage."

⁵⁹ This was a group from amongst the Companions desiring good in worship and obedience. So they came and asked about the worship of the Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) in order that they may follow him. So when they were informed about his worshipped. They felt as if their deeds were deficient. They said,

The Best Religion for Mankind

"The Messenger is not like us, for he was forgiven for his past and present sins, so he isn't in need of worship." So when the news of this reached the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) he became extremely angry. And He said,

"What is a matter with the people that they say such-and-such? While I am the one from among you who fear Allah the most.' Verily I pray and sleep and I fast and break my fast, and I marry women and I eat meat. So whoever turns away from my sunnah, then he is not of me."

Contain within this Hadith is a warning from being excessive in one's worship; and burdening oneself in the Religion. The Religion is balance, and all praise is to Allah! It is not befitting to place a burden upon yourself that you are not able to bear. The Prophet warns in many Ahaadiths from being excessive in the religion. And his (صلى الله عليه وسلم) saying,

(So whoever turns away from my sunnah, then he is not of me.) Verily this is like the saying of Allah,

وَمَنْ يَرْغَبْ عَنِ مِلَّةِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِلَّا مِنْ سَفَهٍ نَفْسَهُ

(And who turns away from the religion of Ibrahim (Abraham) (i.e. Islamic Monotheism) except him who befools himself?) The Messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) had freed himself from it.

Contain within this is a warning against the innovation of being extreme and harsh, and an encouragement to be just and balance in all the affairs; Because the Religion is to take the middle course. Allah says,

The Best Religion for Mankind

So take note! When some of the Companions wanted to devote themselves to worship, this harsh statement was said concerning them, and their deeds were called "turning away from the sunnah." So what do you think about innovations other than these? And what do you think about the people who are not the Companions?⁶⁰

وَأَنَّ هَذَا صِرَاطِي مُسْتَقِيمًا فَاتَّبِعُوهُ

("And verily, this is My Straight Path, so follow it,)

This is the correct path; the path of the Messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم). It is not for any Muslim to belittle the actions of the Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) for we have been commanded to take him as example. Allah said,

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُو اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ
وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا

Indeed in the Messenger of Allah (Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم) you have a good example to follow for him who hopes for (the Meeting with) Allah and the Last Day, and remembers Allah much. [Ahzaab:21]

⁶⁰ If these were the Companions and they were the best of the generations, when they've shown this type of behavior the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) rejected this

The Best Religion for Mankind

The Statement of Allah: So set you (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم) your face towards the religion (of pure Islamic Monotheism) Haneef (worship none but Allah Alone).

Allah says, So set you (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم) your face towards the religion (of pure Islamic Monotheism) Hanif (worship none but Allah Alone). Allah's Fitrah (i.e. Allah's Islamic Monotheism) with which He has created mankind. No change let there be in Khalq-illah (i.e. the religion of Allah - Islamic Monotheism): that is the straight religion, but most of men know not.⁶¹ [Rum:30] Allah states in His noble book,

وَوَصَّىٰ بِهَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ بَنِيهِ وَيَعْقُوبُ يَا بَنِيَّ إِنَّ اللَّهَ اصْطَفَىٰ لَكُمُ الدِّينَ فَلَا

from them. Then how about other than them from these later generations who exceeds the limits in their extremism?!

⁶¹ Here contain within these verses is a command from Allah to His prophet with regards to these affairs.

The Author (may Allah have mercy upon him) Intend by presenting these verses to mention that which comes in the Prophetic Ahaadeeth and reported narrations as an explanation to these noble verses.

The Best Religion for Mankind

تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ

And this (submission to Allah, Islam) was enjoined by Ibrahim (Abraham) upon his sons and by Ya'qub (Jacob) (saying), "O my sons! Allah has chosen for you the (true) religion, then die not except in the Faith of Islam (as Muslims - Islamic Monotheism)."⁶²

⁶² Meaning: Ibrahim has enjoined upon his sons Ismaa'eel and Ishaq the kalimat-ul-Tauheed (I bear witness that none has the right to worshipped in truth except Allah alone), And Ya'qoob done likewise with his sons. Ibrahim he is the father of the Prophets and Ya'qoob (Jacob) is the father of the children of Israel. Both of them enjoined this kalimat-ul-Tauheed upon their off-spring. Likewise it is an obligation upon the father to cultivate his children upon obedience to Allah, and that he enjoined upon them at the time of his death, with firmness upon the religion, and to remain upon Tauheed.

(إِنَّ اللَّهَ اصْطَفَىٰ لَكُمْ الدِّينَ)

(Allah has chosen for you the (true) religion,)

Meaning: He has chosen Tauheed for you, because you are the children of Prophets and are from their off-springs. So they were from the first who held on to this Religion with a firm-grasp and they were an example to the people.

(فَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ)

The Best Religion for Mankind

[Baqarah:132]

Allah also says, **Then, We have sent the revelation to you (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم saying): "Follow the religion of Ibrahim (Abraham) Haneef (Islamic Monotheism - to worship none but Allah) and he was not of the Mushrikun (polytheists, idolaters and disbelievers).⁶³ [Nahl:123]**

Ibn Mas'ud narrated that the Messenger of Allah said, "Verily, every Prophet had supporters from the Prophets, and regarding me, my supporter from among them is my

(Then die not except in the Faith of Islam) This is a command, to hold firmly upon this religion at the time of death, and to act according to it, and to warn from whatever opposes it from innovation, shirk, and calling to misguidance.

⁶³ This is an address to our prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم). **("Follow the religion of Ibrahim (Abraham) Haneef)**

When Allah has described Ibrahim with these noble characteristics which I previously mentioned, He then commanded His prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم) to follow the religion of Ibrahim. The religion of Muhammad is the religion of Ibrahim, which is to worship Allah with sincerity.

The Best Religion for Mankind

father, Ibraaheem, and (he is) the Khaleel (intimate friend) of my Lord." Then he recited,

Verily, among mankind who have the best claim to Ibrahim (Abraham) are those who followed him, and this Prophet (Muhammad ﷺ) and those who have believed (Muslims). And Allah is the Wali (Protector and Helper) of the believers. (At-Tirmidhee)⁶⁴

⁶⁴ The Prophets befriend one another with love and following one another. They are one chain from the first of them to the last of them. The first give glad tidings to the last, and the last followed the first. Our prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) is the closest to Ibrahim. This is a refutation against the Jews and Christians. The Jews say that Ibrahim was a Jew, and the Christians say he was a Christian. Allah refutes them with His saying,

مَا كَانَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ يَهُودِيًّا وَلَا نَصْرَانِيًّا وَلَكِنْ كَانَ حَنِيفًا مُّسْلِمًا وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ
الْمُشْرِكِينَ
(إِنَّ أَوْلَى النَّاسِ بِإِبْرَاهِيمَ لَلَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوهُ

Ibrahim (Abraham) was neither a Jew nor a Christian, but he was a true Muslim Hanifa (Islamic Monotheism - to worship none but Allah Alone) and he was not of Al-Mushrikun [Aali Imraan:67]

Verily, among mankind who has the best claim to Ibrahim (Abraham) are those who followed him) and you 'O Christians do not follow him, for you are

The Best Religion for Mankind

far away from him. The Christians worship the cross and the Jews worship 'Uzair, they say, 'Uzair is the son of Allah.' They also worshipped the calf just like Allah mention concerning them. This is the religion of the Jews. Ibrahim is free from them and that which they fabricated.

Verily, the closest of the people to Ibrahim are those who followed him. It is not the Jews and the Christians nor is it those who opposes him. It is none other than the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) and the believers. Allah is their wali, He it is who aids, support, love and befriend them. He is the Wali of the believers specifically. Walaayah is that which is general and specific. It applies generally to all of mankind like in the statement of Allah,

(And they will be brought back to Allah, their rightful Maula (Lord) [Yunus:30]

Meaning: He is their Lord and Ruler. This is the general walaayah that applies to all of mankind; as for the walaayah that is specific: then this is for the believers those who follow Ibrahim, and the first of them, is the Prophet and his companions. Also this refutation against those Jews and Christians who claims that they are upon the religion of Ibrahim, while they are lying, for they are not upon the religion of Ibrahim, they are only upon shirk.

Verily, this show for one to be a wali to the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) one has to follow him. There is no walaayah to the prophet or Ibrahim except for the one who follows them both. Those who claim that they love Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم) while they opposes

The Best Religion for Mankind

Abu Hurairah narrated that the Messenger of Allah said, "Verily, Allah does not look at your bodies or wealth. Rather, He looks at your hearts and your deeds."⁶⁵

him, and practice innovation, then their claim is a lie, for if they really loved the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) they would have followed him, and abandoned innovation. The one who truly loves the Prophet is the one who follows him. They are those, whom Allah says concerning them,

آٰمَنُوا بِهِ وَعَزَّرُوْهُ وَنَصَرُوْهُ وَاتَّبَعُوا النُّوْرَ الَّذِي اُنزِلَ مَعَهُ ۗ اُولٰٓئِكَ هُمُ
رَالْمُقْلِحُوْنَ

So those who believe in him (Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم), honor him, help him, and follow the light (the Qur'an) which has been sent down with him, it is they who will be successful. [A'raf:157]

The point is in following, not a mere claim! For if it is a claim not established upon evidence then it is falsehood.

⁶⁵ What this Hadith indicates is that there are only two things that Allah will look at, which is the hearts and deeds; if the hearts are sound and are sincere to Allah alone; and the deeds are correct according to Allah's legislation and Religion, then this is what Allah will look at, accept and reward. As for the beautification of the outer appearance (bodies) and amassing much wealth, then this holds no significance with Allah. Allah says,

The Best Religion for Mankind

It is narrated in the Saheehayn (Bukhaaree & Muslim) from Ibn Mas'ud that the Messenger of Allah said, "I will precede you all to the Hawdh (his pond or basin in the Hereafter), and some men will be brought to me from my Ummah. But when I try to reach out to them (to shake their hands) they will be prevented from coming near me. So I will say, 'O my Lord! My Ashaa (Companions)!' Then it will be said, 'Verily, you do not know what they innovated after you.'"⁶⁶

وَمَا أَمْوَالُكُمْ وَلَا أَوْلَادُكُمْ بِالَّتِي تُقَرِّبُكُمْ عِندَنَا زُلْفَىٰ إِلَّا مَنْ آمَنَ وَعَمِلَ
صَالِحًا}

(And it is not your wealth, nor your children that bring you nearer to Us (i.e. please Allah), but only he who believes (in the Islamic Monotheism), and does righteous deeds (will please Us) [Saba:37] These are the ones who Allah will look at with acceptance and mercy.

⁶⁶ On the Day of Judgment the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) will be at the Hawd (its length is a distance of a month and its width is the same, its water is whiter than milk and sweeter than honey, and whoever drinks from it will not be thirsty after that ever again).

The Ummah on the Day of Judgment will arrive at the Prophet's hawd (صلى الله عليه وسلم) and they will be thirsty due to the severe heat and long standing, they will be in need of water, the Prophet will give them

The Best Religion for Mankind

It is also narrated in the Saheehayn on the authority of Abu Hurairah that the Messenger of Allah said, "I would love it if we could see our brothers." They (the Companions) said, "Are we not your brothers, O Messenger of Allah?" He replied, "You all are my Companions. My brothers are those who have not come yet." They said, "How will you know those who have not come yet from your Ummah?" He replied, "If there is a man who have horses with distinctive white patches on their foreheads and legs, and his horses are among horses that are solid black, don't you think that he would know his horses?" They replied, "Of course." Then he said, "Well verily, they (my brothers) will come with distinct white markings on their foreheads and limbs from the ablution (wudoo), and I will precede them to the Hawdh. And indeed there will be men who will

something to drink with his hands except for he, who changes his religion, will be turn away from it (hawd), the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) will say, ('O my Lord! My Ashaab(Companions)!' It will be said to him, 'Verily, you do not know what they innovated after you.'

Meaning: they have changed their religion. This shows that whoever innovates into the religion of Allah, will not drink from the hawd of the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم).

The Best Religion for Mankind

be driven away from my pond on the Day of Judgement just as the stray camel is driven away. I will call out to them saying, ‘Come on!’ But it will be said, “Verily, they changed (the religion) after you.” So I will say to them, ‘Get away, get away!’”⁶⁷

Al-Bukhaaree narrated a hadith, in which the Prophet said,

‘While I was asleep, I saw a group of people (in a dream). I continued to see them until I recognized them. At that point a man came out between them and I and he said (to them), ‘Come on.’ So I said, ‘Where (are you taking them)?’ He replied, ‘To the Hellfire, by Allah.’ I then said, ‘What happened to them?’ He replied, ‘Verily, they apostate after you, turning their backs in retrogression.’ Then another group came and the same thing happened. I do not think there was any sincere one among them except the likes of a few neglected

⁶⁷This Hadith is similar to one that came before it. The Ummah of Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وسلم) is those who do not alter or change their religion. They will come with distinctive characteristics and signs that Prophet will be made to recognize them by; and it is the traces that are seen on their foreheads and limbs. Verily, this shows the virtue of ablution (wudhoo); and that its marks will remain as a light for them on the Day of Judgment.

The Best Religion for Mankind

camels.”⁶⁸

In the Saheehayn it is narrated in a hadith of Ibn ‘Abbaas that the Prophet said, “I will say just as the righteous servant (‘Eesaa, son of Maryam) said,

And I was a witness over them while I dwelt amongst them, but when You took me up, You were the Watcher over them; and You are a Witness to all things. (This is a great admonition and warning to the Christians of

⁶⁸ This Hadith is similar to the previous one. Many from the creation will come on the Day of Judgment, and then they will be called to the Fire in the company of the Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم). The Messenger asked, “**Why?**” They said: “**Because they have apostate after you.**” What is indicated by this is, that the one who commits the crime of falling into that which invalidates one’s Islam, then this shall be his fate except for the one who turns in repentance to Allah before he dies. This is from what has been enjoined on man that he have knowledge of that which will invalidate his Islam and he shall abstain from it in order not to be with these people on the Day of Judgment.

The things that nullify one’s Islam are many, likewise the causes of Apostasy. It is a must that one shows the utmost concern in having knowledge and awareness of it; and to ask Allah for firmness upon the Religion.

The Best Religion for Mankind

the whole world). "If You punish them, they are Your slaves, and if You forgive them, verily You, only You, are the All-Mighty, the All-Wise." ⁶⁹ [Maa'idah:118]

It is also narrated in the Saheehayn that the Prophet said, "There is no child that is born except that it is (born) on the Fitrah (Islamic Monotheism). But its parents make it a Jew, a Christian, or a Magian (fire worshipper). Just as the cow is born as a whole (healthy) calf. Do you notice any mutilation in it until you all come along and mutilate it (branding it, cutting its ears and tails, etc.)?" Then Abu Hurairah recited the verse,

Allah's Fitrah (i.e. Allah's Islamic Monotheism) with which He has created mankind. [Rum:30]⁷⁰

⁶⁹ The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) will say this at the time they will be driven to the Fire, he will say the same as Isa son of Mary will say on the Day of Judgment when Allah will say to him:

"O 'Isa (Jesus), son of Maryam (Mary)! Did you say unto men: 'Worship me and my mother as two gods besides Allah?' " [Maa'idah:116]

⁷⁰ This Hadith explains the previous verse which comes in the beginning of the chapter. Allah has created mankind upon Islam, meaning their fitrah (natural inclination) is Tawheed (singling Allah out

The Best Religion for Mankind

It is reported that Huthayfah said, “The people used to ask the Messenger of Allah about the good, but I used to ask him about the evil out of fear that it will overcome me. So I said, ‘O messenger of Allah! Verily, we were in a state of ignorance and evil. Then Allah brought us this good (i.e. Islam). Will there be any evil after this good?’ He said, “Yes.” Then I said, ‘Will there be any good after that evil?’ He said, ‘Yes.’ But there will be Dakhan (blemish) in it.’ So I said, ‘What its Dakhan will be?’ He replied, ‘A group of people who will follow a way other than my Sunnah, and they will be directed with other than my guidance. You will recognize some things from them and reject (others).’ I said, ‘Will there be any evil after that good?’ He said, ‘Yes.’ A blind fitnah (trial, evil) and callers at the gates of Hell. Whoever responds to their call, they will throw them into it (i.e. Hell).’ I said, ‘O Messenger of Allah! Describe them to us.’ He replied, ‘A people from our skin, and they will speak our language.’ I then said, ‘O Messenger of Allah! What do you command me (to do) if I reach that (time)?’ He said, ‘Adhere to the Jamaa’ah of Muslims and their Imam.’ I said, ‘What if there is no Jamaa’ah and no Imam?’ He said, ‘Then avoids

alone in all worship).

The Best Religion for Mankind

all of those sects even if you have to bite upon the root of a tree until death comes to you while you are in that state.” Both Al-Bukharee & Muslim recorded this Hadith.⁷¹

The version in Muslim adds, **“Then I said, ‘then what?’ The Prophet replied, “The Dajjaal will appear and he will have a river and a fire with him. So whoever falls into his fire will definitely be rewarded (i.e. with good).’ So I said, ‘then what?’ He replied, ‘It will be the establishment of the Hour.”⁷²**

Abu Al-Aaliyah said, **“Learn Islam. Then once you have learned it, do not turn away from it. You must adhere to the Straight Path, for verily, it is Islam. And do not move from the Path, not to the right, nor the left. And you**

⁷¹ This without a doubt is something that is good; that one asks about the good and learns whatever good and correct therein. However one shall not fall short by stop there, rather it is incumbent upon you to know its opposite which is evil in order for you to not fall in it. So it is incumbent upon you to know two affairs: good and righteous actions and all that leads to it from actions, statements and belief; evil and all that which leads to it in order for one not to fall into it.

⁷² This is from those severe trial and afflictions; the appearance of the Anti-Christ in the last days; his coming is from the major signs of the Hour.

The Best Religion for Mankind

must also adhere to the Sunnah of your Prophet. And beware of these desires (following innovation).”⁷³

⁷³ He is Rafi' ibn mihraan Ar-riyaahee: one of the Imams of the Taabi'een. He gave a tremendous advice:

1. Learn Islam: meaning knowing what Islam is. It is not sufficient that you say I am a Muslim and you do not know what Islam is. It is must that you know what Islam is and what is its pillars and what are those things that invalidates one's Islam until you become one who has insight.
2. Once you have learned it then it is upon you to hold firm to it. Not sufficient is it for a person to have knowledge and he doesn't act according to it.
3. That it is binding upon you to tread the Straightway. Allah said:

("And verily, this is My Straight Path, so follow it,) and He said:

(Guide us to the Straight Way.) It is the Path that is balance which has neither crookedness nor distortion. Allah has commanded us to follow it and to ask Him to guide us to it.

4. It is that you do not forget when Allah has granted you success to knowing what is the Straightway those callers of misguidance who wants to turn you away from it. Due to this Allah said: **(and follow not (other) paths, for**

The Best Religion for Mankind

Notice this statement of Abu Al-Aaliyah, for indeed it is great. And you should take note of his time in which he was warning against these desires that whoever follows them turns away from Islam. Also notice his explanation of Islam and the Sunnah, and his fear for the eminent Successors (i.e. the students of the Companions) and their Scholars, that they might leave the Sunnah and the Book.⁷⁴

Thus the meaning of Allah's statement becomes clear for you, where He says,

When his Lord said to him, "Submit (i.e. be a Muslim)!" He said, "I have submitted myself

they will separate you away from His Path).

And the Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) has given us an example for this.

⁷⁴ The Author (May Allah have mercy upon him): notice this statement of Abu Aaliyah and what it contains of tremendous benefits. When was the time in which Abu Aaliyah lived in? It was the era in which the Taabi'een lived. So how about in this time of ours?! No doubt it is worse now. As regards to the Author saying,

"(Also notice his explanation of Islam and the Sunnah), meaning: the Sunnah of the Messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم).

The Best Religion for Mankind

(as a Muslim) to the Lord of the 'Alamin (mankind, jinn and all that exists)." And His statement,

And this (submission to Allah, Islam) was enjoined by Ibrahim (Abraham) upon his sons and by Ya'qub (Jacob) (saying), "O my sons! Allah has chosen for you the (true) religion, then die not except in the Faith of Islam (as Muslims - Islamic Monotheism)." And His saying,

And who turns away from the religion of Ibrahim (Abraham) (i.e. Islamic Monotheism) except him who befools himself?

And there are other evidences (i.e. verses and ahadeeth) that are similar to these and they are the major fundamentals that are the foundations of the fundamentals (of Islam). Yet, the people are heedless of them. By being aware of this basic fundamental, the meaning of the Ahadeeth that address this matter and other similar Ahadeeth become clear. However, the person who reads these evidences and similar evidences, and he feels certain that they do not pertain to him, and he thinks that they refer to people that have passed away before.⁷⁵

⁷⁵ The one who reads these texts and their likes, understands them and acts according to them will be

The Best Religion for Mankind

Did they then feel secure against the Plan of Allah? None feels secure from the Plan of Allah except the people who are the losers. [A'raf:99]
It has been reported that Ibn Mas'ud said,

“The Messenger of Allah drew a line on the ground for us. Then he said, “this is the way of Allah.’ Then he drew lines from its right and from its left, and he said, “on every one of these paths there is a devil calling to it.’ Then he recited (the verse)

"And verily, this is My Straight Path, so follow it, and follow not (other) paths, for they will separate you away from His Path. [An'aam:153]

upon the path of safety, the path of Islam; as for the one who doesn't he will be destroyed because he did not take the means that leads to safety.

The Best Religion for Mankind

**What has been reported about the strangeness
Of Islam and the virtue of the strangers⁷⁶**

Allah says, **If only there had been among the generations before you persons having wisdom, prohibiting (others) from Al-Fasad (disbelief, polytheism, and all kinds of crimes and sins) in the earth, (but there were none) - except a few of those whom We saved from among them!**

Hud(11):116⁷⁷

⁷⁶ Islam began as something strange, first when the Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) began to establish it in Makkah; when Allah had sent him with His saying **(Arise and warn!)** [Mudath-thir:2] First it was the Messenger, and then he was joined by Abu Bakr Al-Sadeeq and Bilal. This is why when he was asked who was with him on this affair? He said: "A **free man and a slave.**"

⁷⁷ Meaning: nothing destroyed this generation except there were none from among them who commanded the good and prohibited the evil. His saying, **(except a few of those whom We saved from among them!)** What this shows is that the one who commands the good and prohibits the evil will be saved when the torment comes; as for the one who doesn't command the good and prohibits the evil will be destroyed even if he be amongst the righteous, however he will be raised on the Day of Judgment upon his intention just as it comes in the Hadith.

The Best Religion for Mankind

It has been narrated from Abu Hurairah that the Messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said,

“Islam began as something strange and it will return to being something strange just as it began. So glad tidings (of a tree called Toobaa in Paradise) for the strangers.” (Muslim)

Ahmad recorded this hadeeth from Ibn Mas’ood in which he mentioned that it was said,

“Who are the strangers?” The Prophet replied, **“The Nuzzaa’⁷⁸ from the tribes and those who are righteous when the people have become corrupt (or wicked).”**

At-Tirmidhee recorded from Katheer bin ‘Abdullah, who narrated from his father, who narrated from his grandfather that the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said,

“So glad tidings (of a tree called Toobaa in Paradise) for the strangers. They are those who correct what the people have corrupted of my Sunnah.”⁷⁹

⁷⁸ Nuzzaa’ (singular= Naazi’ and Nazee’): A strange person who withdraws from his people and his tribe (or relatives).

⁷⁹ The Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) has informed us of this. Meaning: A warning from misguidance and an

The Best Religion for Mankind

It is reported that Abu Umayyah said, "I asked Abu Tha'labah, 'What do you say about this verse,

O you who believe! Take care of your own selves. If you follow the (right) guidance no hurt can come to you from those who are in error. Maa'idah (5):105

He said, 'By Allah! Indeed you have asked one who knows about it. I asked the Messenger of Allah (about it) and he said,

"Rather (it means), command each other to do good and forbid each other from evil until you see greediness that is obeyed, desires being followed, worldliness being preferred, and every person who has an opinion being pleased with his own opinion. Then (at that time) take care of yourself and leave the common people alone (i.e. avoid them). For verily, after you all, there will be days when the person who is patient during them will be like someone holding a burning coal (in his hand). The one who works (righteous) deeds in those days will have the reward of fifty men who do deeds like your deeds.' We said, '(fifty men) from them or

encouragement to hold fast to Islam even if its people are few.

The Best Religion for Mankind

from us?' He replied, 'Nay, from you.'⁸⁰ (Abu Dawud and At-Tirmidhee)

Ibn Wadhdhaah⁸¹ reported a hadith having the same meaning from Ibn 'Umar. Its wording is that the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said,

⁸⁰ This Hadith is tremendous. It explains the statement of Allah, (**O you who believe! Take care of your own selves. If you follow the (right) guidance no hurt can come to you from those who are in error.**) [Maa'idaah:105] Some or most of the people understands this verse to mean: to leave off commanding that which is good and prohibiting the evil and that you shall be only concern with oneself. This is a mistake. This is not what the verse implies. The verse is only explaining that when the people are corrupted you do not become corrupted. This is what is intended by the verse; that you do not blind follow the people. As for the commanding of good and prohibiting evil it remains and it shall not be left off. The Messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said,

"When any one of you sees anything that is disapproved (of by Allah), let him change it with his hand. If he is not able to do so, then let him change it with his tongue. And if he is not able to do so, then let him change it with his heart... [Muslim]

⁸¹ He is the Imaam, the Haafidh, Muhaddith of Andulus (Spain) Muhammad Ibn Wadhdhaah Ibn Baze', he author a book entitled (Al-Hawaadith wal-Bid'ah).

The Best Religion for Mankind

“Verily, after you all there will be days in which the one who is patient during them, adhering to his religion (Islam) like what you all are upon today (i.e. in the companions’ time), he will have the reward of fifty of you.”⁸²

Then he (Ibn Wadhhaah) said, “Muhammad bin Sa’eed informed us that Asad informed them that Sufyaan bin ‘Uyainah narrated from Aslam Al-Basree, who reported from Sa’eed, the brother of Al-Hasan, who said that the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said,

‘Verily, today you all are upon clear guidance from your Lord. You command the good, forbid the evil, and you make Jihaad in the way of Allah. Also, the two intoxications have not appeared among you: the intoxication of ignorance, and the intoxication of love of life. But you all are going to change from that (which you are on now). So whoever adheres to the Book and the Sunnah on that day (i.e. in those times) then he will have the reward of fifty.’ It was said, ‘Fifty of them?’ He replied, ‘Nay from you.’

⁸² These are days in which the severity in them Islam will appear strange and the supporters will be few and the enemies will be many.

The Best Religion for Mankind

This hadith also has a chain of narration from Al-Ma'aafiree, who said that the Messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said,

“Toobaa (a huge tree in Paradise) is for the strangers. They are those who adhere to the Book when it will be abandoned, and act according to the Sunnah when it will be extinguished.”

The Best Religion for Mankind

The warning against Innovations⁸³

It was narrated on the authority of Abu Najih al-Irbad bin Sariyah, radiyallahu 'anhu, who said:

The Messenger of Allah, sallallahu 'alayhi wasallam, delivered an admonition that made our hearts fearful and our eyes tearful. We said, "**O Messenger of Allah, it is as if this were a farewell sermon, so advise us.**" He said, "**I enjoin you to h**

ave Taqwa of Allah and that you listen and obey, even if a slave is made a ruler over you. He among you who lives long enough will see

⁸³ Bid'ah (innovation): is to introduce something in the Religion that is not from it, whether it is a prescribed act of worship or a form of Thikr or other than that from the affairs of the Religion. The Religion is complete- and all praise is due to Allah- for the Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) did not pass away except that the Religion was completed. Allah said,

(الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ)

This day, I have perfected your religion for you;

[Maa'idah:3] The Religion is not in need of any one bringing something new into it even if what he intended was correct., for this is something that is not permissible.

The Best Religion for Mankind

many differences. So for you is to observe my Sunnah and the Sunnah of the rightly-principled and rightly-guided successors, holding on to them with your molar teeth. Beware of newly-introduced matters, for every innovation (bid'ah) is an error." [Abu Dawud & Al-Tirmidhi, who says it, is an authentic hadith]⁸⁴

It is narrated that Huthayfah said, "Every act of worship that the Companions of Muhammad were not performing then you all (the latter generations) should not perform it either. For indeed the first (generation) has not left any statement for the last (generations). So fear Allah O community of reciters, and take the path of those who were before you." (Abu Dawud).⁸⁵

⁸⁴ Allah commanded His messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) to admonish the people. Allah said,

وَقُلْ لَهُمْ فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ قَوْلًا بَلِيغًا

And speak to them an effective word to reach their inner selves. [Nisaa:63]

⁸⁵ Who are the most knowledgeable of the people concerning the sunnah of the Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم)? They are his companions; those who have explained the sunnah of the Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) saw it and act according to it. So take from that with which the companions acted upon which is the sunnah of the Messenger. This is because they are

The Best Religion for Mankind

the closest of the people to the Messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم); they are his students and they learn from him; they are those who love his sunnah. Allah has commanded this with His statement,

وَالسَّابِقُونَ السَّابِقُونَ مِنَ الْمُهَاجِرِينَ وَالْأَنْصَارِ وَالَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ ۖ

And the foremost to embrace Islam of the Muhajirun (those who migrated from Makkah to Al-Madinah) and the Ansar (the citizens of Al-Madinah who helped and gave aid to the Muhajirun) and also those who followed them exactly (in Faith). [Taubah:100] Meaning with certainty without laxation nor exceeding proper bounds.

رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ وَأَعَدَّ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ
لَكَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ فِيهَا أَبَدًا ۖ ذَٰ

Allah is well-pleased with them as they are well-pleased with Him. He has prepared for them Gardens under which rivers flow (Paradise), to dwell therein forever. That is the supreme success. [Taubah:100] The Companions who, when they do an action it is from the sunnah of the Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم).

So fear Allah O community of reciters, and take the path of those who were before you.”

What are intended by **O community of reciters** are the Scholars (‘Ulamaa), because during that time the reciters were the Scholars. And it is not merely those who memorize the Qur’an with tajweed is what is intended. No! The Qurraa’ (reciters) of first generation: Are the scholars because they will not exceed 10 verses until they’ve

The Best Religion for Mankind

Ad-Daarimee said that Al-Hakim bin Al-Mubaarak told them that ‘Amr bin Yahyaa told them that he heard his father narrating from his father that he said’ “We were sitting at the door of ‘Abdullah bin Mas’ud before the morning prayer so that when he came out we can walk with him to the masjid. Then Abu Musa Al-Ash’aree came to us and said, “Has Abu ‘Abdir-Rahmaan come out yet?’ We said, ‘No.’ so he sat with us. Then when he (ibn Mas’ud) came out, Abu Musa said, ‘O Abu ‘Abdir-Rahmaan! Verily, I saw in the masjid something that I disapproved of and I, All praise is due to Allah, didn’t see other than good.’ Ibn Mas’ud said, ‘What was it?’ He said, ‘If you live you will see it.’

Then he continued, ‘I saw people sitting in circles in the masjid waiting for the prayer. In every circle there was a man (leading the others) and the people had pebbles in their hands. So the man (who was leading them) would say: Say Allah is Most Great (Allahu Akbar) one hundred times! So the people will say Allahu Akbar one hundred times. Then the man would say: Say there is no

learned their meanings and acted upon them; they did not suffice themselves with memorization only. As for the Qurraa’ (reciters) in these latter times they are those who are not Scholars (Fuqahaa); they merely suffice themselves with reciting the Qur’an however they do not understand it.

