

### Did you know there are Conditions for the Declaration of Faith?

If someone were to ask us, “How did you become a Muslim?” or “How did you enter the religion of Islam?” we would say, “We said ‘La ilaha illAllah (swt), Muhammedun Rasulullah!’ and became Muslims.” Then, if a second question were asked, “Did Allah (swt) accept your declaration to enter Islam?” we might be surprised by this question. But let us explain the matter with an example:

We perform prayers to please Allah (swt). The validity of the prayer and its acceptance by Allah (swt) is possible by adhering to its conditions and staying away from the elements that spoil it. If we have performed ablution, faced the qibla, made the intention, and refrained from actions that invalidate the prayer during the prayer, then our prayer is valid. But would the prayer of someone who does not fulfill these conditions and eats, drinks or talks to others during prayer be valid? Of course, not... Therefore, this is also the case with the word “LailaheillAllah (swt).” For this word to be accepted, there are conditions to be fulfilled, and there are some elements that invalidate the declaration if they are committed. Even if a person says this word repeatedly without fulfilling these conditions until the last moments of their life, the word is invalid.

### What is Taghut?

Rejecting Taghut and staying away from it. This is the first condition for the acceptance of this declaration. All prophets were sent to invite people to this truth:

**“We have certainly sent a messenger to every nation, saying; ‘Worship Allah (swt) and avoid Taghut.’”** (16/An-Nahl, 36)

Allah (swt) has also stated in another verse that holding on to the Word of Tawhid, which He describes as a firm handle, is only possible by denying Taghut:

**“There is no compulsion in religion. Truth is (clearly) separated from falsehood. Whoever denies Taghut (by rejecting it, declaring it unbeliever, absolving it) and believes in Allah (swt), will hold on to the strong handle (the Word of Tawhid) that will never break (and enter the religion of Islam). Allah (swt) is All-Hearing, All-Knowing.”** (2/Al-Baqarah, 256)

The unbreakable handle of Islam is the Word of Tawhid. Two conditions are mentioned for a person to be from the people of the Word of Tawhid and for the word “LailaheillAllah (swt)” to benefit them: denying Taghut and believing in Allah (swt). Taghut is a Quranic concept and is mentioned in eight different verses in the Quran. One of the most important concept of Islam is; rejecting Taghut, and this is the common agenda of all prophets. (See 16/An-Nahl, 36)

### According to the Quran, what is Taghut?

- Traditional, religious, or political sources of knowledge that lead people from the light of revelation to the darkness of disbelief by setting standards outside the measures of the Quran (see 2/Al-Baqarah, 257)
- Values and paths that are idolized, lived and died for, and for which friendship and enmity are determined according to their own standards, without legitimacy from Allah (swt) (see 4/An-Nisa, 76)
- Individuals and institutions that make laws contrary to the laws of Allah (swt) and invite people to them, and the laws they establish (see 4/An-Nisa, 60)
- All living and non-living beings that are worshiped other than Allah (swt), loved, feared, and obeyed wholeheartedly, like Allah (swt) (see 39/Az-Zumar, 17)

Anyone who believes in Allah (swt) and does not reject Taghut has believed in Taghut, become its servant, and denied Allah (swt). (See 4/An-Nisa, 51; 5/Al-Ma'idah, 60)

### Now let's think together, my dear brothers and sisters:

How many of us know the concept of “Taghut”? How many of us have heard this word before? Why did the teachers, television preachers, sheikhs, and scholars who claim to teach us our religion has never taught us about this concept? And why do they continue not to tell us? While all messengers sent to the nations (tribes) invited people to this truth, why do the present-day callers hide the common message of all messengers from us?

### Denying Taghut, which is the common invitation and message of all messengers.

Taghut is everything worshiped other than Allah (swt), for example Tombs and shrines where people pray and seek help, rulers and parliaments that make laws that Allah (swt) is not pleased with, ideologies that try to direct people's lives with certain values, religious leaders who deceive people in the name of Islam and hide the truths of Islam, callers who invite people from the light of revelation to the darkness of polytheism and disobedience, fabricated values for which people live and die... All of these are Taghut. You are hearing all of this for the first time, aren't you? Then it is time to stop and think, how to organize ourselves according to the Book of Allah (swt) and the message of His Messenger (Sunnah). When we enter the grave or stand before Allah (swt), He (swt), will hold us accountable based on His Book and the message of His Messenger. Let us not allow anyone to deceive us in the name of Allah (swt) and religion. Now, together with you, let us try to examine the concepts of deity, worship, and polytheism, which are of crucial importance to a better understanding of the word “Lailaha illAllah (swt).”

### Do You Know Why You Were Created?

Have you ever asked yourself the question, “What is the reason for Allah (swt) creating me out of nothing, providing for me, and making the entire universe at my service, making me the most honorable of all created beings?” “I did not created jinn and mankind except to worship Me.” (51/Adh-Dhariyat, 56)

The purpose of human creation is Tawhid. And Tawhid means to worship Allah (swt) alone and unite Him in worship. This means to worship Allah (swt) alone in our prayers, fasting, sacrifice, supplication, and organize our life as a whole according to Allah (swt)'s Sharia and submit only to His laws. (See 1/Al-Fatihah, 5)

Since the purpose of a believer's existence is Tawhid, the “main agenda” that is unchanging and comes first should always be Tawhid. (Also see 38/Sad, 27)

The sole purpose of the creation of all human beings is: to worship Allah (swt) alone... Those who do not worship Allah (swt) alone or worship other beings alongside Allah (swt) have betrayed the purpose of their creation and broken their promise to their Lord.

### What is Worship?

The most important thing we need to know in order to stay true to our purpose of creation is what worship is. Worship is the words and actions that are done solely for the sake of Allah (swt) and that Allah (swt) loves and is pleased with. Prayer is an act of worship. Allah (swt) has commanded believers to pray because He loves and is pleased with it. Prayer becomes a valid act of worship only when it is performed solely for Allah (swt). Let's imagine someone saying, “I pray for my parents - my boss or my country.” We know that this person's prayer is invalid and that they are worshiping someone other than Allah (swt). Supplication is also an act of worship:

**“Your Lord has said, ‘Call upon Me, and I will respond to you.’ Indeed, those who are arrogant to worship me will enter Hell in a state of humiliation.”** (40/Ghafir, 60)

**The Prophet (pbuh) recited this verse and said, “Supplication is the essence of worship.”** (Abu Dawud, 1479; At-Tirmidhi, 2969)

A person should only supplicate to Allah (swt), seek help only from Allah (swt) in times of distress, and ask only Allah (swt) to alleviate their difficulties. Because supplication is worship, and worship is done only for Allah (swt).

### Giving authority to Allah (swt) is also worship:

**“Those you worship besides Him are nothing but names you and your forefathers have fabricated, for which Allah (swt) has sent down no authority. The command belongs only to Allah (swt). He has commanded that you worship none but Him. That is the right religion, but most people do not know.”** (12/Yusuf, 40)

Believing that authority, legislation, and determining what is permissible and forbidden belong only to Allah (swt). Living accordingly is not a luxury but an essential principle of Islamic belief. The fact that authority belongs to Allah (swt) is associated with two things: worshiping Allah (swt) and having a true religion. Those who do give this authority to Allah (swt) and they do not recognize any law other than Allah (swt)'s, are the people who worship Allah (swt) and they are the followers of the true religion. Those who see sovereignty in anyone, ideology, or institution other than Allah (swt), who competes with Allah (swt) in legislation, are the ones who worship the names/thoughts that Allah (swt) has not revealed any evidence about it. Authority, legislation, and determining what is permissible and forbidden belong only to Allah (swt). And giving this right to Allah (swt) in belief and action is worship. A person should believe that this right belongs only to their Lord, not to parliaments or kings who compete with Allah (swt) in this right.

### Do You Know the Meaning of the Word of Tawhid and the Testimony of Faith?

#### The Word of Tawhid

**La:** There is none.

**Ilaha:** No deity

**Ilha:** Except for one.

**Allah (swt):** (And that) is Allah (swt).

#### The Testimony of Faith

**Ashadu:** I bear witness that

**An la ilaha:** There is no deity.

**Ilha:** Except for one.

**Allah (swt):** (And that) is Allah (swt).

When we say the Word of Tawhid, we are first denying divinity from all beings.

We declare our acceptance that nothing can be a deity and that nothing deserves to be a deity. Then we bear witness that divinity belongs only to Allah (swt) and that Allah (swt) is the only true deity. The key concept in the Word of Tawhid is “deity.”

#### So, what is a Deity?

Deity is the one who is worshiped, who deserves worship, and who is worthy of worship. When we say “Lailaha illAllah (swt),” we are actually saying: “O Allah (swt); I will only perform my prayers, fasting, sacrifice, supplication, and all acts of worship to You. You are the Lord and Sovereign of the entire universe. I will not recognize any legislator other than You. True is, what You deem right for us, and what You deem wrong is wrong for us. You hold the power to benefit and harm. I will only seek what benefits me from You and seek refuge in You from anything harmful. I will not allow any beings to guide my life. I will take Your friends as my friends and Your enemies as my enemies. My goal will be to earn Your pleasure. I will live for You and die for You.”

#### So, what is Polytheism?

Polytheism is worshiping someone other than Allah (swt) or worshiping others alongside Allah (swt). Whoever worships anyone other than Allah (swt) or associates' partners with Allah (swt) in any act of worship, whether it be prayer or any other act, has committed shirk (polytheism) against Allah (swt).

Let's examine the verses from our Noble Quran on this subject:

We learned that legislation belongs to Allah (swt) and that giving this authority to Allah (swt) is a vital part of worship. Our Lord has said the following about those who give this authority to others:

**“Or have they other deities who have ordained for them a religion to which Allah (swt) has not consented? But if not for the decisive word, it would have been concluded between them. And indeed, the wrongdoers will have a painful punishment.”** (42/Ash-Shuraa, 21)

Those who establish laws that Allah (swt) does not allow and legalize them as permissible (halal) and forbidden (haram), are ones who associate themselves partners to Allah (swt). Because making laws, determining Shariah, and legislating are among the most prominent attributes of Allah (swt). Therefore, this is strictly prohibited in Islam. (See 12/Yusuf, 40; 18/Al-Kahf, 26)

Allah (swt) blames those who establish laws that contradict His own and those who give them this right. The entities they have given this right to are those they have associated with Allah (swt):

**“They have taken their scholars and monks as lords besides Allah (swt), and [also] the Messiah, the son of Mary. And they were not commanded except to worship one deity; there is no deity except Him. Exalted is He above whatever they associate with Him.”** (9/At-Tawbah, 31)

#### **Do you know how the Prophet (pbuh) interpreted this verse?**

When the Prophet (pbuh) recited the verse “They have taken their scholars and monks as lords besides Allah (swt), and [also] the Messiah, the son of Mary,” Adiy ibn Hatim, who was a Christian during the time of ignorance, came with a silver cross around his neck. He said, “They did not worship scholars and priests.” The Prophet (pbuh) said, “The religious scholars made what is permitted (unlawful) and what is forbidden (unlawful) lawful. They followed them in this. This was their worship to their religious scholars.” (At-Tirmidhi, 3095; Tafsir Ibn Abi Hatim, 2/1784, Hadith No. 10057-10058)

– The verse and the interpretation of the Prophet (pbuh) shows that legislation, determining what is permissible and forbidden, is the exclusive right of Allah (swt). This is because it is one of Allah (swt)’s most distinct attributes, “Ar-Rabb” (The Lord). Rabb means the one who nurtures, organizes, and directs. Allah (swt) nurtures people with the laws He has established, and He brings order to societies.

– To give any of these attributes to a scholar, intellectual, worshiper, parliamentarian, ruler, or tribal leader, means taking them as lords other than Allah (swt).

We learned that supplicating to anyone other than Allah (swt), believing in the spirituality of those believed to be righteous, supplicating to graves and shrines, is condemned by our Lord:

**“To Him (alone) is the supplication of truth. And those they call upon besides Him, they do not respond to them with a thing, except as one who stretches his hands toward water [from afar, calling it] to reach his mouth, but it will not reach it [thus]. And the supplication of the disbelievers is not but in error.”** (13/Ar-Ra’d, 14)

**“He causes the night to enter the day and causes the day to enter the night, and has subjected the sun and the moon, each running [its course] for a specified term. That is Allah (swt), your Lord; to Him belongs sovereignty. And those whom you invoke other than Him do not possess [as much as] the membrane of a date seed. If you invoke them, they do not hear your supplication; and if they heard, they would not respond to you. And on the Day of Resurrection, they will deny your association. And none can inform you like [one] Aware [of all matters].”** (35/Fatir, 13-14)

**“Indeed, pure religion is for Allah (swt) only. And those who take protectors besides Him [say], ‘We only worship them that they may bring us nearer to Allah (swt) in position.’ Indeed, Allah (swt) will judge between them concerning that over which they differ. Indeed, Allah (swt) does not guide he who is a liar and [confirmed] disbeliever.”** (39/Az-Zumar, 3)

At the core of polytheism lies the concept of a distant Allah (swt) and flawed human beings: “Who are we to directly pray to Allah (swt)?”, “Our sins are so numerous, how can we ask Allah (swt) for anything with these impure mouths?” This false belief pushes people towards the search for a “saint” who can bring them closer to Allah (swt). (See 2/Al-Baqarah, 186; 5/Al-Ma’idah, 35; 34/Saba’, 22-23; 39/Az-Zumar, 43; Also see 6/Al-An’am, 14)

Notice that Allah (swt) has informed us that those who supplicate to anyone other than Him are actually worshiping those beings, and that these actions are considered polytheism and those who commit them are liars and disbelievers. Remember that worshiping anyone other than Allah (swt) is polytheism, and polytheism is the greatest injustice. Listen to the advice that Luqman (as) gave to his son:

**“And [mention, O Muhammad], when Luqman said to his son while he was instructing him, ‘O my son, do not associate [anything] with Allah (swt). Indeed, association [with Him] is great injustice.’”** (31/Luqman, 13)

Associating partners with Allah (swt) will render all your deeds useless and lead to loss in both worlds. Pay attention to the warning that Allah (swt) has revealed to all His prophets:

**“And it was already revealed to you and to those before you that if you associate [anything] with Allah (swt), your work would surely become worthless, and you would surely be among the losers.”** (39/Az-Zumar, 65)

Although Allah (swt)’s (swt) forgiveness, mercy, and pardon are vast enough to encompass all creation, if you commit polytheism, you will be deprived of this beauty:

**“Indeed, Allah (swt) does not forgive association with Him, but forgives anything else of whoever He wills.”** (4/An-Nisa, 48)

The only sin that Allah (swt) will not forgive if one dies without repenting, is polytheism. All other sins are subject to Allah (swt)’s (swt) will. He may forgive them or not. Polytheism is the act of worshiping someone other than Allah (swt) or attributing one of Allah (swt)’s (swt) attributes to any other being. There are many forms of polytheism. Polytheism in love (see 2/Al-Baqarah, 165), polytheism in obedience (see 9/At-Tawbah, 31), polytheism in supplication and worship (see 7/Al-A’raf, 37; 10/Yunus, 106), polytheism in legislation (see 18/Al-Kahf, 26; 42/Ash-Shuraa, 21), polytheism in idolizing certain values to unite a society (see 29/Al-Ankabut, 25) ...

As we have read from the evidence above, those who commit polytheism against Allah (swt) have made the greatest accusation against Him and committed the greatest injustice. Therefore, all their deeds are in vain. Their ultimate fate is that Paradise is forbidden for them:

**“Indeed, he who associates others with Allah (swt) - Allah (swt) has forbidden him Paradise, and his refuge is the Fire. And there are not for the wrongdoers any helpers.”** (5/Al-Ma’idah, 72)

#### **So, what are we inviting you to?**

We are inviting you to the religion of all the prophets and the only valid religion in the sight of Allah (swt), Islam. We are inviting you to a religion where worship is dedicated solely to Allah (swt), without associating any partners with Him, in pure and sincere monotheism. We are inviting you to the nation of Abraham (as), where all false deities are rejected and only Allah (swt) is worshiped, where all love, fear, and hope are directed towards Allah (swt). We invite you to the forgiveness of Allah (swt) and the eternal abode of Paradise, the Gardens of Paradise.

**We invite you to the forgiveness of Allah (swt) and the Paradise of Firdaws, the home of peace.**



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