

Ilm Essentials

Aqīdah Lesson 2

73 Sects in Islām

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- “The Jews split into 71 sects and the Christians split into 72 sects
 - ▣ My ummah will split into 73 sects
 - All of them will be in the fire except one...that which I and my companions are upon” (Tirmidhī)
 - ▣ Salvation is dependent on following the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam)
 - And his companions
- Does this mean the vast majority of Muslims are deviant
 - ▣ One narration mentions the saved sect is the “great majority” (as-sāwad al-a’zam)
- Some scholars have tried to list out the 72 sects

Ahl 's-Sunnah wa 'l-Jamā'ah

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- Īmān / Aqīdah
 - ▣ Ash'arī or Māturīdī
- Islām / Fiqh
 - ▣ Hanafī, Mālikī, Shāfi'ī or Hanbalī
- Ihsān / Tasawwuf
 - ▣ Bā Alawī, Chishtī, Naqshbandī, Qādirī, Shādhiliī, Suharwardī and others
- Can be other accepted definitions as well

Outside the Fold of Islām

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- The process of declaring someone to be outside the fold of Islām is called “takfīr”
 - ▣ We do not question the Islām of anyone who says the shahādah
 - Hadīth says “my ummah” will split
 - We don’t claim the other 72 sects are outside the fold of Islām
- Need to question a person, in detail, before we can suspect their īmān

Understanding Islāmic Proofs

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- Need to examine 2 things
 - ▣ Sanad (chain of narration) of the text
 - ▣ Meaning of the text
- All of the Quran comes to us through tawātur (undeniable) transmission
 - ▣ Can be discussion about the meaning of a verse
 - ▣ Very few hadīth are mutawātir
- Need strong proofs for aqīdah
 - ▣ Strong transmission and clear meaning

Fundamentals of Divine Oneness and True Faith

The Fundamentals of True Faith

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- Obligatory to state that I believe in
 - ▣ Allah
 - ▣ His angels
 - ▣ His revealed scriptures
 - ▣ His messengers
 - ▣ Resurrection after death
 - ▣ That destiny, good and evil, is from Allah
 - ▣ That the scale, Paradise and Hellfire are all true
 - “For whoever disbelieves in Allah and His angels and His books and His messengers and the Last Day has truly strayed far astray” (Quran 4:136)

Belief in the Oneness of Allah

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- Allah is one, without any partner (whatsoever)
 - ▣ Begin with tawhīd because
 - It is the beginning of submission
 - It is what the prophets started with
 - It is the first obligation upon man
 - ▣ “Surely We sent Nūh to his people and he said, ‘Oh my people, worship Allah! You do not have any god other than Him’” (Quran 7:59)
 - Also Quran 7:65, 7:73 and 7:85

Belief in the Oneness of Allah

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- Allah is one, without any partner (whatsoever)
 - ▣ “Indeed, We have sent forth among every community a messenger saying, ‘Worship Allah and shun all false deities’” (Quran 16:36)
 - ▣ “For We have not sent before you (Oh Prophet) any messenger except that We revealed to him that ‘There is no god but Me, so worship Me’” (Quran 21:25)

Belief in the Oneness of Allah

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- Allah is one, without any partner (whatsoever)
 - ▣ Established by the Quran
 - “Allah Himself bears witness that, indeed, there is no god but Him, as do the angels and those with knowledge” (Quran 3:18)
 - ▣ Deemed necessary by the intellect
 - “Had there been any gods other than Allah, both the heaven and the earth would have been corrupted” (Quran 21:22)
 - “Nor has there ever been any god with Him. For then each god would have gone off with what he created and some would have sought to overcome others” (Quran 23:91)

Belief in the Oneness of Allah

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- Allah is one, without any partner (whatsoever)
 - ▣ Negates the divisibility of His essence
 - ▣ Negates any similarity or partner in His essence and attributes
 - ▣ Many pagans accepted Allah as supreme Lord
 - But said He had helpers
 - ▣ Others elevated the status of “pious” men
 - Building statues on their graves and worshipping them
 - As intermediaries

Belief in the Oneness of Allah

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- Allah is one, without any partner (whatsoever)
 - ▣ “May Allah curse the Jews and Christians who took the grave sites of their prophets as places of worship” (Bukhāri and Muslim)
 - ▣ “But those who have taken as protectors other than He say, ‘We do not worship them except that they may bring us nearer to Allah’” (Quran 39:3)

Belief in His Angels

13

- We believe in the angels, all of them, whether we know of them or not
 - ▣ “Every day 70,000 angels visit it and leave, never returning to it again, another group coming after them” (Bukhāri)
- Angels are subtle bodies, created from nūr
 - ▣ “The angels are created from light, just as the jinn are created from smokeless fire” (Muslim)
 - ▣ Genderless, capable of taking on different forms
 - “Indeed, those who disbelieve in the Hereafter most certainly name the angels with female names” (Quran 53:27)

Belief in His Angels

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- Created before mankind
 - ▣ “Now behold! Your Lord said to the angels, ‘I am placing upon the earth a successor’” (Quran 2:30)
- Enormous creatures
 - ▣ “I saw Jibrīl descending from heaven and his great size filled the space between the heaven and the earth” (Muslim)
 - “He had six hundred wings, each of which covered the horizon” (Ahmad)

Belief in His Angels

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- Some are absorbed in the marifah (gnosis) of Allah
 - ▣ Worshipping Him at all times
- Others manage the affairs from the heavens to the earth
 - ▣ All according to Allah's commands
 - “There is not one of us (angels) except that he has a designated station” (Quran 37:164)

Belief in His Angels

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- They cannot disobey Allah
 - ▣ Because they do not have free will
 - “And they act by His command” (Quran 21:27)
- We believe in the noble, angelic scribes whom Allah has appointed as guardians over us
 - ▣ “While, indeed, over you are guardian angels, noble ones, writing down your deeds. They know all that you do” (Quran 82:10-12)

Belief in His Angels

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- We believe in the Angel of Death
 - ▣ Who is entrusted with seizing the souls of man
 - “Say: The Angel of Death, who is set over you, will take your souls. Then to your Lord shall you be returned (for judgment)” (Quran 32:11)
- We believe in the interrogation in the grave by Munkar and Nakīr
 - ▣ Who is your Lord
 - ▣ What is your religion
 - ▣ Who is your Prophet

Belief in His Scriptures

18

- Believe in their existence
- Believe in their being the word of Allah
 - ▣ “And it is not for any man that Allah should speak to him except by Revelation or from behind a veil or by sending a messenger-angel that reveals, by His permission, what He so wills” (Quran 42:51)
- Believe in those mentioned by name and those mentioned generally
 - ▣ Tawrāh to Prophet Mūsā
 - ▣ Zabūr to Prophet Dāwūd
 - ▣ Injīl to Prophet Īsā
 - ▣ Scriptures (suhuf) to Ībrāhīm and Mūsā
 - ▣ Quran to Prophet Muhammad (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam)
- Some messengers received multiple books
 - ▣ Others received a single book
 - Some did not have a new book

Belief in His Messengers

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- Nabī is a prophet
 - ▣ Rasūl is that prophet who was given a new sacred law
 - Every rasūl is a nabī
 - But not every nabī is a rasūl
 - Example of the Prophets Mūsā and Hārūn
- Belief in every prophet is essential
 - ▣ Regardless of whether a scripture was revealed to them
- The prophets are all male
 - ▣ Chosen by Allah to receive His revelation
 - To be passed on to mankind
 - “O Messenger! Proclaim all that has been sent down to you from your Lord. For if you do not, then you will not have conveyed His message” (Quran 5:67)

Belief in His Messengers

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- “Among them are those whose accounts We have related to you and among them are those whose accounts We have not related to you” (Quran 40:78)
- The Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) was once questioned about the number of prophets
 - ▣ “One hundred and twenty-four thousand, among whom 313 were messengers, the first of whom was Ādam and the last was Muhammad” (Ahmad)
- Best not to set a number
 - ▣ So as to avoid excluding a prophet who should be included
 - Or to include a person who should be excluded

Belief in His Messengers

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- We believe Muhammad (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) is His chosen one
 - ▣ His pre-eminent prophet and His beloved
- He is the finality of the prophets and the master of all the messengers
 - ▣ Any claim to prophecy after him is deviation and heresy
 - “Muhammad is not the father of any of the men among you. Yet he is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the prophets” (Quran 33:40)
 - “The Banner of Praise will be in my hand and Ādam and all those after him will be under it” (Muslim)
- He is an emissary to all of the jinn and all of mankind
 - ▣ “For We have sent you as none other than a mercy to all the worlds” (Quran 21:107)

Belief in the Resurrection After Death

22

- Allah will resurrect the deceased from their graves by gathering their original body parts and returning their souls to them
 - ▣ “Then (after this period) Allah will send water from the sky and the dead bodies will grow like vegetation grows
 - There is nothing of the human body that does not decay except one bone, which is the tailbone from which the human body will be recreated on the Day of Resurrection” (Bukhāri)
 - ▣ This will happen in the Hereafter

Belief That Destiny Is from Allah

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- We believe that Allah has decreed everything that is to occur
 - ▣ “Do you not know that Allah knows all that is in the heaven and the earth? Indeed, all that is in a Book (Preserved Tablet)” (Quran 22:70)
 - “The first thing Allah created was the Pen, after which He commanded it to write. The Pen asked its Lord what it should write. Allah said, ‘Write all that is to occur until the Day of Resurrection’” (Tirmidhī)
- There is nothing in this world
 - ▣ Nor the next
 - Except through His will, knowledge and decree

Belief in the Scale

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- The mīzān will be used to weigh the deeds of each person on the Day of Judgment
 - ▣ “And the weighing on that Day is true” (Quran 7:8)
 - “It is We who set up the scales of justice for the Day of Judgment” (Quran 21:47)
- After the accounting and the reading of the book of deeds, everyone will take their place in either Paradise or the Hellfire
 - ▣ “Read your book! Sufficient is your soul this Day as a reckoner against you” (Quran 17:14)

Belief in Paradise and Hellfire

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- Paradise and Hellfire have already been created and will never cease to exist
 - ▣ “Everything will perish except His Face (wajh)” (Quran 28:88)
 - Plausible that destruction will befall them
 - But not permanently

Belief in Paradise and Hellfire

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- The inhabitants of Paradise will remain therein forever
- The inhabitants of Hellfire, who disbelieved, will remain therein forever
- The inhabitants of Hellfire, who believed, will remain for a time
 - ▣ Then be granted admission into Paradise
 - Through the mercy of Allah

Questions and Discussion

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