

# *'Aqida* 101

-Content of Creed-



# General Content of Theology:

1. What is necessary with respect to Allah
2. What is impossible with respect to Allah
3. What is possible with respect to Allah

1] **What is necessary with respect to Allah**—the thirteen attributes we learned.

2] **What is rationally impossible with respect to Allah**—the opposites of the thirteen attributes we learned.

3] **What is rationally possible with respect to Allah**—for Him to do any rationally possible thing or leave it undone.

‘Some of what is impossible with respect to Allah...’

- Any imperfection the mind can envision is rationally impossible with respect to Allah.
- It is obligatory upon us to negate those things in a general sense, and it is only obligatory upon us to know of THIRTEEN impossibilities, and they are the **opposites** of the thirteen necessary attributes.

**SELF-SIGNIFYING  
ATTRIBUTE**



1. Existence

**NEGATING  
ATTRIBUTES**



1. Beginninglessness
2. Endlessness
3. Dissimilarity to creation
4. Self-subsistence
5. Oneness

**POSITIVE  
ATTRIBUTES**



1. Power
2. Will
3. Knowledge
4. Life
5. Hearing
6. Sight
7. Speech

ATTRIBUTE

Existence

OPPOSITE

Non-Existence

- Nothingness
- Non-being

ATTRIBUTE

Beginninglessness

OPPOSITE

Contingency

- Coming into existence
- Having a beginning

ATTRIBUTE

Endlessness

OPPOSITE

Having and End

- Coming out of existence



ATTRIBUTE

Dissimilarity to  
Creation

OPPOSITE

Similarity to  
Creation

ATTRIBUTE

Self-subsistence

OPPOSITE

Dependence

- 1] Depending on others
- 2] Indwelling in something
- 3] Being the quality of something else

ATTRIBUTE

Oneness

OPPOSITE

Multiplicity

- 1] Compositeness/parts
- 2] Others having attributes like Allah's attributes
- 3] Others having actions like His

ATTRIBUTE

Power

OPPOSITE

Inability

ATTRIBUTE

Will

OPPOSITE

Compulsion

- 1] Being forced to create something He does not want
- 2] Creating something 'accidentally' or out of forgetfulness

ATTRIBUTE

Knowledge

OPPOSITE

Ignorance

- 1] Compound or simple ignorance
- 2] What is like ignorance: doubt, conjecture, fancy, guess, reflection, forgetfulness, heedlessness, etc.

ATTRIBUTE

Life

OPPOSITE

Death

It is also rationally impossible that He be described with anything *analogous* to death, such as saying His life is via a soul or spirit, or sustained through food and rest, or any other quality of created things.

ATTRIBUTE

Hearing

OPPOSITE

Deafness

Deafness is 'to lack hearing due to a defect preventing it.' It is also impossible for Him to be described with what is *analogous* to deafness, such as hearing some things and not others, or to hear through ears, etc.



ATTRIBUTE

Sight

OPPOSITE

Blindness

Blindness is ‘to lack sight due to a defect preventing it.’ It is also impossible for Him to be described with what is *analogous* to blindness, such as seeing some things and not others, or to see through eyes, etc.

ATTRIBUTE

Speech

OPPOSITE

Dumbness

Dumbness is ‘to lack speech due to a defect preventing it.’ It is also impossible for Him to be described with what is *analogous* to dumbness, such as His speech being composed of letters, sounds, and other contingent qualities.

## NECESSARY ATTRIBUTES

- 1] Existence
- 2] Beginninglessness
- 3] Endlessness
- 4] Dissimilarity to creation
- 5] Self-subsistence
- 6] Oneness
- 7] Power
- 8] Will
- 9] Knowledge
- 10] Life
- 11] Hearing
- 12] Sight
- 13] Speech

## IMPOSSIBLE ATTRIBUTES

- 1] Non-existence
- 2] Contingency/beginning
- 3] Having an end
- 4] Similarity to creation
- 5] Dependence/indwelling
- 6] Multiplicity
- 7] Inability
- 8] Compulsion
- 9] Ignorance
- 10] Death
- 11] Deafness
- 12] Blindness
- 13] Dumbness

Every ‘**possible existent**’:

[1] is preceded by non-existence [2] has a beginning; [3] an end; [4] resembles other created things (mass, shape, size, colors, taking up space, etc.); [5] depends on others for its existence; [6] has parts and shares with others in qualities and actions; [7] is not all-powerful; [8] does not have absolute will; [9] is not all-knowing; [10] will die; [11] is limited in its hearing, and hears with organs; [12] is limited in its sight, and sees with organs; [13] has speech that is originated, with sounds and letters, and uses an organ to express it.

**Anything with these qualities, by definition, cannot be GOD!**



## How Theology Animates Our Spirituality

- [1] We are finite; we don't have to exist.
- [2] We have a beginning and end and need Allah constantly to exist.
- [3] We resemble other things in the cosmos, we are part of something larger, and are limited.
- [4] We are constantly in need, dependent in every way on Allah's will.
- [5] Our lives are limited and fluctuate; we seek eternal life through Allah.
- [6] Nothing escapes His Knowledge, Hearing, and Sight
- [7] We are blessed to receive the Divine Speech, the Quran, from the Prophet Muhammad (Allah bless him and give him peace).



What is *possible*  
with respect to  
Allah

It is possible for Allah to either  
do or leave every possible thing.