



## 'AQIDA IOI

### -LESSON ONE NOTES-

Last week we introduced the concept of *Fard 'Ayn* and discussed its importance. We mentioned many of the benefits we attain when we focus on *Fard 'Ayn* knowledge as a priority.

We also did a rough description and breakdown of the various topics that are *Fard 'Ayn* for us to know.

The very first one is '*Aqida*. What is '*Aqida*? In English we may translate it as 'creed,' 'belief,' 'theology,' 'doctrine.'

The word '*aqida* comes from the root 'A-Q-D, and means that which is tied, knotted to, held onto, etc. It is called '*Aqida* because it is tied strongly to the heart.

### OTHER NAMES

*'Ilm al-Tawhid*—the science pertaining to divine oneness

*Usul al-Din*—the foundations of the religion

*Al-Fiqh al-Akbar*—the Greatest Understanding

*Iman*—faith, belief

*'Ilm al-Kalam*—scholastic theology

*‘Ilm al-Sunna*—knowledge of the Prophetic Way

## ‘AQIDA FIRST

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ remained in Mecca for 13 years calling the people to Allah—to iman and worshipping Allah alone. Later, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ was sending Mu’adh b. Jabal to Yemen, and instructed him: “**You are going to a people from the People of the Book. Let the first thing that you call them to be the worship of Allah. If they acknowledge Allah, then inform them that Allah has obligated upon them five prayers during their days and nights.**” [Agreed upon]

Jundub b. ‘Abdillah ؓ said, “We learned **iman** and *then* we learned the Qur’an, and it increased our iman.”

## WHY ‘AQIDA FIRST?

1] We are obliged to know our Lord.

2] Belief motivates actions. Actions require an internal motivator or drive.

(If a person knows who Allah is and knows their ultimate purpose, they won’t have much difficulty submitting to prohibitions like ‘eating pork,’ but if they don’t know who Allah is, if their *‘Aqida* is skewed, any explanation on ‘why’ something is halal or haram will not have much benefit.)

3] Ideas matter. Beliefs about ‘reality’ and what is ‘good’ lead to beliefs and ideas; those ideas are articulated as philosophies. They influence minds in academia and trickle down into think tanks, which affect policy and culture.

- 4] There is a huge difference between errors in Islam vs. errors in Iman.
- 5] We have to KNOW *'Aqida* our self and not just parrot what we hear.
- 6] Neglecting *'Aqida* can lead to major problems, both Worldly and Otherworldly:
  - A] Delay salvation
  - B] Deny salvation
  - C] Sectarianism
  - D] Intellectual confusion which leads to the erosion of Iman

## WHAT IS 'AQIDA ABOUT?

The scholars divide the study of 'Aqida into three categories:

- 1] Theology (*Ilahiyat*)—beliefs about Allah.
- 2] Prophetology (*Nubuwwat*)—beliefs about the Prophets and Messengers of Allah
- 3] Transmitted beliefs (*Sam'iyyat*)—beliefs about unseen realities.

Before we learn the CONTENT and PROOF in matters of *'Aqida*, we learn how to THINK.

## STRUCTURE OF 'AQIDA IOI

### Lesson I: Introduction to *'Aqida*

- Definition, importance, benefits
- The three areas studied in *'Aqida*
- Overview of *'Aqida* IOI

## **Lesson 2: How do we know what we know?**

- What is knowledge?
- How do we know what we know?
- What is a proposition?
- What is a rational judgement?
- What is an empirical judgement?

## **Lesson 3: Theology (content of Iman I)**

- Allah's Existence
- The Negating Attributes
- The Positive Attributes

## **Lesson 4: Theology (content of Iman II)**

- Review of the Divine Attributes

## **Lesson 5: Theology (proofs of Iman I)**

- Rational proofs
- Textual proofs

## **Lesson 6: Theology (proofs of Iman 2)**

- Rational proofs
- Textual proofs

## Lesson 7: Prophetology (content of Iman)

- Meaning of *Nabi* and *Rasul*, and the difference; number and names of the Prophets whom we must affirm
- Status of prophethood
- Qualities that are necessary for the Prophets
- Qualities that are impossible for the Prophet
- What is possible for the Prophets

## Lesson 8: Prophetology (proofs of Iman)

- Rational proofs
- Textual proofs
- Common misunderstandings

## Lesson 9: Transmitted Beliefs

- Divine Scriptures
- Angels
- Last Day

## Lesson 10: Comprehensive review session, open QA

