

Translation of the Full Text of **al-'Āqāid**

al-'Aqīdah at-Ṭahāwiyyah

Imām Abū Ja'far al Warrāq at-Ṭahāwī al-Miṣrī (*Raḥimahullāh*)

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INTRODUCTION

In The Name of Allāh, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Imām Abū Ja'far al-Ṭahāwī (239-321 A.H.) can be said to represent the creed of both Ash'aris and Maturidis, especially the latter, as he was also following the Ḥanafī madhhab. Imām Abū Ja'far al-Ṭahāwī's **Statement of Islamic Doctrine** commonly

known as the **'Aqīdah Ṭaḥāwīyyah**. This text, representative of the viewpoint of **Ahl al-Sunnah wa al-Jamā'ah**, has long been the most widely acclaimed, and indeed indispensable, reference work on Muslim beliefs, of which the text below is a complete English translation.

Imām Abū Ja'far Aḥmad ibn Muḥammad al-Azdī, known as Imām Ṭaḥāwī after his birthplace in Egypt, is among the most outstanding authorities of the Islamic world on Ḥadīth and Islamic jurisprudence (Fiqh). He lived at a time when both the direct and indirect disciples of the Four Imāms of law were teaching and practicing. This period was the greatest age of Ḥadīth and Fiqh studies, and Imām Ṭaḥāwī studied with all the living authorities of the day. Al-Badr al-'Aynī said that when Imām Aḥmad b. Ḥanbal died, Imām Ṭaḥāwī was 12; when Bukhārī died, he was 27; when Muslim died, he was 32; when Ibn Mājah died, he was 44; when Abū Dāwūd died, he was 46; when Tirmidhī died, he was 50; when Nisā'ī died, he was 74.

Zāhidu'-l-Kawtharī relates this and adds the consensus of scholars that Ṭaḥāwī allied in himself completion in the two knowledges of Ḥadīth and Fiqh, a consensus that included, among others, al-'Aynī and al-Dhahabī, with **Ibn Taymiyyah** singling himself out in his opinion that Ṭaḥāwī was not very knowledgeable in Ḥadīth. This is flatly contradicted by Ibn Kathīr who says in his notice on Ṭaḥāwī in *al-Bidāyah wa al-Nihāyah*: "He is one of the trustworthy (**thiqah**) narrators of established reliability, and one of the massive memorizers of Ḥadīth." Zāhidu'-l-Kawtharī calls Ibn Taymiyyah's verdict "another one of his random speculations" and states: "No-one disregards Ṭaḥāwī's knowledge of the defective Ḥadīth except someone whose own defects have no remedy, and may Allāh protect us from such."

Imām Ṭaḥāwī began his studies with his maternal uncle Isma'īl ibn Yaḥyā al-Muzanī, a leading disciple of Imām Shāfi'ī. However, Ṭaḥāwī felt instinctively drawn to the corpus of Imām Abū Ḥanīfa's works. Indeed, he had seen his uncle and teacher turning to the works of Ḥanafī scholars to resolve thorny issues of Fiqh, drawing heavily on the writings of Abū Ḥanīfa's two leading students and companions, Muḥammad Ibn al-Ḥasan al-Shaybānī and Abū Yūsuf, who had codified Ḥanafī Fiqh. This led him to devote his whole attention to studying the Ḥanafī works and he eventually joined the Ḥanafī school. He now stands out not only as a prominent follower of that Ḥanafī school but, in view of his vast erudition and remarkable powers of assimilation, as one of its leading scholars. His monumental scholarly works, such as *Sharh Ma'āni al-Āthār* and *Mushkil al-Āthār*, are encyclopedic in scope and have long been regarded as indispensable for training students of Fiqh. **He was in fact a mujtahid** across the board and was thoroughly familiar with the Fiqh of all four schools, as stated by Ibn 'Abd al-Barr and related by Zāhidu'-l-Kawtharī, and as shown by Ṭaḥāwī's own work on comparative law entitled *Ikhtilāf al-Fuqahā'*.

Ṭaḥāwī's "Doctrine" (**al-'Aqīdah**), though small in size, is a basic text for all times, listing **what a Muslim must know and believe and inwardly comprehend**. There

is consensus among the Companions, the Successors and all the leading Islamic authorities such as the four Imāms and their authoritative followers on the doctrines enumerated in this work, which are entirely derived from the undisputed primary sources of Religion, the Holy Qur'ān and the confirmed Aḥādīth. Being a text on Islamic doctrine (**'aqīdah**), this work sums up the arguments set forth in those two sources to define sound belief, and likewise, the arguments advanced in refuting the views of sects that have deviated from the Sunnah.

As regards the sects mentioned in this work, familiarity with Islamic history up to the time of Imām Ṭaḥāwī would be quite helpful. More or less veiled references to sects such as the **Mu'tazilah**, the **Jahmiyyah**, the **Karramiyyah**, the **Qadariyyah**, and the **Jabariyyah** are found in the work. It also contains allusions to other views considered unorthodox and deviant from the way of **Ahl al-Sunnah**. There is an explicit reference in the work to the controversy on the creation of the Qur'ān (**Khalq al-Qur'ān**) in the times of Caliph al-Ma'mūn and other Abbasid Caliphs.

While the permanent relevance of the statements of belief in the **'Aqīdah** are obvious, the historical weight and point of certain of these statements can be properly appreciated only if the work is used as a text for study under the guidance of some learned person able to elucidate its arguments fully, with reference to the intellectual and historical background of the sects refuted in the work. Since the present book is intended exactly as one such aid towards understanding the details of Islamic belief with clarity, it is hoped that the quotation of the entire text of Ṭaḥāwī's "Doctrine," which we consider as the doctrine of **Ahl al-Sunnah wa al-Jamā'ah**, will be of benefit to the reader. And may Allāh grant us a true understanding of faith and count us among those described by the Prophet (ﷺ) as the Saved Group (**Firqatu'n-Nājiyah**).

TAHAWI'S STATEMENT OF ISLAMIC DOCTRINE (AL-'AQĪDAH AL-ṬAḤAWIYYAH)

العقيدة الطحاوية

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
الحمد لله رب العالمين

﴿ قال العلامة حجة الاسلام أبو جعفر الوراق الطحاوي - بمصر . رحمه الله :
هذا ذكر بيان عقيدة أهل السنة و الجماعة على مذهب فقهاء الملة أبي حنيفة
النعمان بن ثابت الكوفي ، و أبي يوسف يعقوب بن إبراهيم الأنصاري ، و
أبي عبد الله محمد بن الحسن الشيباني ، رضوان الله عليهم أجمعين ، و ما
يعتقدون من أصول الدين ، يدينون به رب العالمين ﴾

In the Name of Allāh, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds.

The great scholar Hujjat al-Islam Abū Ja'far al-Warraq al-Ṭaḥāwī al-Misrī, may Allāh have mercy on him, said:

*" This is a presentation of the explanation of the doctrine of the Adherents of the Sunnah and the Community, according to the School of the jurists of the creed, Abū Ḥanīfah al-Nu'mān ibn Thābit al-Kūfi, Abū Yūsuf Ya'qūb ibn Ibrāhīm al-Anṣārī, and Abū 'Abdillāh Muḥammad ibn al-Ḥasan al-Shaybānī (Allah's pleasure be upon them all), and that which they believe by way of the **fundamentals** of the religion, and profess as their faith to the Lord of the worlds. "*

We say about Allāh's unity, believing by Allāh's help that:

TAWḤĪD: THE ONENESS OF ALLĀH

[1]. Allāh is One, without any partners.

[2]. There is nothing like Him.

- [3]. There is nothing that can overwhelm Him.
- [4]. There is no god other than Him.
- [5]. He is the Eternal without a beginning and enduring without end.
- [6]. He will never perish or come to an end.
- [7]. Nothing happens except what He wills.
- [8]. No imagination can conceive of Him and no understanding can comprehend Him.
- [9]. He is different from any created being.
- [10]. He is living and never dies and is eternally active and never sleeps.
- [11]. He creates without His being in need to do so and provides for His creation without any effort.
- [12]. He causes death with no fear and restores to life without difficulty.
- [13]. He has always existed together **with His attributes** since before creation. Bringing creation into existence did not add anything to His attributes that was not already there. As He was, together with His attributes, in pre-eternity, so He will remain throughout endless time.
- [14]. It was not only after the act of creation that He could be described as '**the Creator**' nor was it only by the act of origination that He could be described as '**the Originator**'.
- [15]. He was always **the Lord** even when there was nothing to be Lord of, and always the Creator even when there was no creation.
- [16]. In the same way that He is the 'Bringer to life of the dead', after He has brought them to life a first time, and deserves this name before bringing them to life, so too He deserves the name of '**Creator**' before He has created them.
- [17]. This is because He has the power to do everything, everything is dependent on Him, everything is easy for Him, and He does not need anything. '**There is nothing like Him and He is the Hearer, the Seer**'. Qur'ān [ash-Shūrā 42:11]
- [18]. He created creation with His knowledge.
- [19]. He appointed destinies for those He created.
- [20]. He allotted to them fixed life spans.
- [21]. Nothing about them was hidden from Him before He created them, and He knew everything that they would do before He created them.
- [22]. He ordered them to obey Him and forbade them to disobey Him.
- [23]. Everything happens according to His decree and will, and His will is

accomplished. The only will that people have is what He wills for them. What He wills for them occurs and what He does not will, does not occur.

- [24]. He gives guidance to whoever He wills, and protects them, and keeps them safe from harm, out of His generosity; and He leads astray whoever He wills, and abases them, and afflicts them, out of His justice.
- [25]. All of them are subject to His will between either His generosity or His justice.
- [26]. He is exalted beyond having opposites or equals.
- [27]. **No one** can ward off His decree or put back His command or overpower His affairs.
- [28]. We believe in all of this and are certain that **everything** comes from Him.

THE PROPHET (ﷺ)

- [29]. And we are certain that Muḥammad (ﷺ) is His chosen servant and selected Prophet and His Messenger with whom He is well pleased.
- [30]. And that he (ﷺ) is the Seal of the Prophets and the Imām of the God-fearing and the Most Honoured of all the Messengers and the Beloved of the Lord of all the worlds.
- [31]. Every claim to prophethood after him (ﷺ) is falsehood and deceit.
- [32]. He (ﷺ) is the one who has been sent to all the **jinn** and all **mankind** with Truth and Guidance and with Light and Illumination.

THE QUR'ĀN

- [33]. The Qur'ān is the word of Allāh (ﷻ). It came from Him as speech without it being possible to say how. He sent it down on His Messenger (ﷺ) as revelation. The believers accept it, as absolute Truth. They are certain that it is, in truth, the Word of Allāh (ﷻ).

It is not created, as is the speech of human beings, and anyone who hears it and claims that it is human speech has become an unbeliever (**kāfir**). Allāh warns him and censures him and threatens him with Fire (**Saqar**) when He says, Exalted is He: 'I will burn him in the Fire.' [al-Muddaththir 74:26] When Allāh threatens with the Fire those who say 'This is just human speech.' [al-Muddaththir 74:25] we know for certain that it is the Speech of the Creator of mankind and that it is totally unlike the speech of mankind.

LIKENESS OF ALLĀH

- [34]. Anyone who describes Allāh (ﷻ) as being in any way the same as a human being has become an unbeliever. All those who grasp this will take heed and refrain from saying things such as the unbelievers say, and they will know that He, in His Attributes, is not like human beings.

VISION OF ALLĀH

- [35]. 'The Seeing of Allāh by the People of the Garden' (al-Jannah) is true, without their vision being all-encompassing and without the manner of their vision being known. As the Book of our Lord has expressed it: **'Faces on that Day radiant, looking at their Lord'**. [al-Qiyāmah 75:22-3] The explanation of this is as Allāh knows and wills. Everything that has come down to us about this from the Messenger (ﷺ), in authentic traditions, is as he said and means what he intended. We do not delve into that, trying to interpret it according to our own opinions or letting our imaginations have free rein.

No one is safe in his religion unless he surrenders himself completely to Allāh, the Exalted and Glorified and to His Messenger (ﷺ), and leaves the knowledge of things that are ambiguous to the one who knows them.

A TRUE MUSLIM

- [36]. A man's Islām is not secure unless it is based on submission and surrender. Anyone who desires to know things which it is beyond his capacity to know, and whose intellect is not content with surrender, will find that his desire veils him from a pure understanding of Allāh's True Unity (**Tawḥīd**), clear knowledge and correct belief, and that he veers between disbelief and belief, confirmation and denial and acceptance and rejection. He will be subject to whisperings and find himself confused and full of doubt, being neither an accepting believer nor a denying rejector.

- [37]. Belief of a man in the 'seeing of Allāh by the people of the Garden is not correct if he imagines what it is like, or interprets it according to his own understanding since the interpretation of this seeing or indeed, the meaning of any of the subtle phenomena which are in the realm of Lordship, is by avoiding its interpretation and strictly adhering to the submission.

This is the **Dīn** (religion) of Muslims. Anyone who does not guard himself against negating the attributes of Allāh, or likening Allāh to something else, has gone astray and has failed to understand Allāh's Glory, because our Lord, the Glorified and the Exalted, can only possibly be described in terms of Oneness and Absolute Singularity and no creation is in any way like Him.

- [38]. He is beyond having limits placed on Him, or being restricted, or having parts or limbs. Nor is He contained by the six directions as all created things are.

AL-MI'RĀJ: THE ASCENSION

- [39]. Al-Mi'rāj (The Ascent Through the Heavens) is true. The Prophet, (ﷺ) was taken by night and ascended in his bodily form, while awake, through the heavens, to whatever heights Allāh willed for him. Allāh ennobled him in the way that He ennobled him and revealed to him what He revealed to him, **'and his heart was not mistaken about what it saw'** [al-Najm 53:11]. Allāh blessed him and granted him peace in this world and the next.

AL-ḤAWḌ: THE POOL

- [40]. Al-Ḥawḍ, (the Pool which Allāh will grant the Prophet (ﷺ) as an honour to quench the thirst of His Ummah on the Day of Judgement), is true.

ASH-SHAFĀ'AH: THE INTERCESSION

- [41]. Ash-Shafā'ah, (the Intercession, which is stored up for Muslims), is true, as related in the (consistent and confirmed) Aḥādīth.

AL-QADAR: THE DECREE

- [42]. Al-Mīthāq, the covenant which Allāh made with Adam (عليه السلام) and his offspring is true.
- [43]. Allāh knew, before the existence of time, the exact number of those who would enter the Garden (al-Jannah) and the exact number of those who would enter the Fire (Jahannam). This number will neither be increased nor decreased.
- [44]. The same applies to all actions done by people, which are done exactly as Allāh knew they would be done. **Everyone is eased towards** what he was created for and it is the action with which a man's life is sealed which dictates his fate. Those who are fortunate are fortunate (**sa'īd**) by the decree of Allāh, and those who are wretched are wretched (**shaqī**) by the decree of Allāh.
- [45]. The exact nature of the decree (**al-qadar**) is Allāh's secret in His creation, and no angel near the Throne, nor Prophet sent with a message, has been given knowledge of it. Delving into it and reflecting too much about it only leads to destruction and loss, and results in rebelliousness. So be extremely careful about thinking and reflecting on this matter or letting doubts about it assail you, because Allāh has kept knowledge of the decree away from human beings, and forbidden them to enquire about it, saying in His Book, **'He is not asked about what He does but they are asked'**. [al-Ambiyā' 21:23]
- Therefore, anyone who asks: **'Why did Allāh do that?'** has gone against a judgement of the Book (the Holy Qur'ān), and anyone who goes against a judgement of the Book is an unbeliever.

- [46]. This in sum is what those of Allāh's friends with enlightened hearts need to know and constitutes the degree of those firmly endowed with knowledge. For there are **two kinds of knowledge**: knowledge which is accessible to created beings, and knowledge which is not accessible to created beings. Denying the knowledge which is accessible is disbelief, and claiming the knowledge which is inaccessible is disbelief. Belief can only be firm when accessible knowledge is accepted and inaccessible knowledge is not sought after.

AL-LAWḤ WAL-QALAM: THE TABLET AND THE PEN

- [47]. We believe in **al-Lawḥ** (the Tablet) and **al-Qalam** (the Pen) and in everything written on the former. Even if all created beings were to gather together to make something fail to exist, whose existence Allāh had written on the Tablet, they would not be able to do so. And if all created beings were to gather together to make something exist which Allāh had not written on it, they would not be able to do so. The Pen has dried having written down all that will be in existence until the Day of Judgement. Whatever a person has missed he would have never got it, and whatever one gets, he would have never missed it.
- [48]. It is necessary for the servant to know that Allāh already knows everything that is going to happen in His creation and decreed it in a detailed and decisive way. There is nothing that He has created in either the heavens or the earth that can contradict it, or add to it, or erase it, or change it, or decrease it, or increase it in any way. This is a fundamental aspect of belief and a necessary element of all knowledge and recognition of Allāh's Oneness and Lordship. As Allāh says in His Book: **'He created everything and decreed it he a detailed way'**. [al-Furqān 25:2] And He also says: **'Allāh's command is always a decided decree'**. [al-Ahzāb 33:38] So woe to anyone who argues with Allāh concerning the decree and who, with a sick heart, starts delving into this matter. In his deluded attempt to investigate the Unseen, he is seeking a secret that can never be uncovered, and he ends up an evil-doer, telling nothing but lies.

AL-'ARSH WAL-KURSĪ: THE THRONE AND THE CHAIR

- [49]. **Al-'Arsh** (the Throne) and **al-Kursī** (the Chair) are true.
- [50]. He (ﷻ) is independent of the Throne and what is beneath it.
- [51]. He (ﷻ) encompasses everything and is above it, and what He has created is incapable of encompassing Him.

AL-AMBIYĀ: THE PROPHETS

- [52]. We say with belief, acceptance and submission that Allāh (ﷻ) took Ibrāhim (ﷺ) as an intimate **friend** and that He **spoke** directly to Mūsā (ﷺ).
- [53]. We believe in the angels, and the Prophets, and the books which were revealed to the messengers, and we bear witness that they were all following the manifest Truth.

AL-UMMAH: THE COMMUNITY

- [54]. We call the people of our **Qiblah** Muslims and believers as long as they acknowledge what the Prophet, (ﷺ), brought, and accept as true everything that he said and told us about.
- [55]. We do not enter into vain talk about Allāh (ﷻ) nor do we allow any dispute about the religion of Allāh.
- [56]. We do not argue about the Qur'ān and we bear witness that it is the Speech of the Lord of all the Worlds which the Trustworthy Spirit (Jibril (ﷺ)) came down with and taught the most honoured of all the Messengers, Muḥammad (ﷺ). It is the Speech of Allāh and no speech of any created being is comparable to it. We do not say that it was created and we do not go against the **Jamā'ah** of the Muslims regarding it.
- [57]. We do not consider any of the people of our **Qiblah** to be unbelievers because of any wrong action they have done, as long as they do not consider that action to have been lawful.
- [58]. Nor do we say that the wrong action of a man who has belief does not have a harmful effect on him.
- [59]. We hope that Allāh will pardon the people of right action among the believers and grant them entrance into the Garden through His Mercy, but we cannot be certain of this, and we cannot bear witness that it will definitely happen and that they will be in the Garden. We ask forgiveness for the people of wrong action among the Believers and, although we are afraid for them, we are not in despair about them.
- [60]. Certainty and despair both remove one from the religion, but the path of truth for the people of the Qiblah lies between the two (e.g. a person must fear and be conscious of Allāh's reckoning as well as be hopeful of Allāh's mercy).
- [61]. A person does not step out of belief except by disavowing what brought him into it.
- [62]. Belief consists of affirmation by the tongue and acceptance by the heart.

- [63]. And the whole of what is proven from the Prophet (ﷺ), regarding the Sharī'ah and the explanation (of the Qur'ān and of Islām) is true.
- [64]. Belief is, at base, the same for everyone, but the superiority of some over others in it is due to their fear and awareness of Allāh, their opposition to their desires, and their choosing what is more pleasing to Allāh (ﷻ).
- [65]. All the believers are Friends of Allāh and the noblest of them in the sight of Allāh (ﷻ) are those who are the most obedient and who most closely follow the Qur'ān.
- [66]. Belief consists of belief in Allāh (ﷻ). His Angels, His Books, His Messengers, the Last Day, and belief that the Decree - both the good of it and the evil of it, the sweet of it and the bitter or it - is all from Allāh (ﷻ).
- [67]. We believe in all these things. We do not make any distinction between any of the messengers, we accept as true what all of them brought.
- [68]. Those of the Community (Ummah) of Muḥammad (ﷺ), who have committed grave sins will be in the Fire, but not forever, provided they die and meet Allāh as believers affirming His Unity even if they have not repented. They are subject to His will and judgement.

If He wants, He will forgive them and pardon them out of His generosity, as is mentioned in the Qur'ān when He says: '**And He forgives anything less than that (shirk) to whoever He wills**' [an-Nisā' 4:116]; and if He wants, He will punish them in the Fire out of His justice and then bring them out of the Fire through His mercy, and for the intercession of those who were obedient to Him, and send them to the Garden.

This is because Allāh is the Protector of those who recognize Him and will not treat them in the Next World in the same way as He treats those who deny Him and who are bereft of His guidance and have failed to obtain His protection. O Allāh, You are the Protector of Islām and its people; make us firm in Islām until the day we meet You.

- [69]. We agree with doing the prayer behind any of the people of the Qiblah whether right-acting (**birr**) or wrong-acting (**fājir**), and doing the funeral prayer over any of them when they die.
- [70]. We do not say that any of them will categorically go to either the Garden or the Fire, and we do not accuse any of them of **kufr** (disbelief), **shirk** (associating partners with Allāh), or **nifāq** (hypocrisy), as long as they have not openly demonstrated any of those things. We leave their secrets to Allāh (ﷻ).
- [71]. We do not agree with killing any of the Community (Ummah) of Muḥammad (ﷺ), unless it is obligatory by **Sharī'ah** to do so.

- [72]. We do not accept rebellion against our Imām or those in charge of our affairs even if they are unjust, nor do we wish evil on them, nor do we withdraw from following them. We hold that obedience to them is part of obedience to Allāh, The Glorified, and therefore obligatory as long as they do not order to commit sins. We pray for their right guidance and pardon from their wrongs.
- [73]. We follow the Sunnah of the Prophet (ﷺ) and the Congregation (Jamā'ah) of the Muslims, and avoid deviation, differences and divisions.
- [74]. We love the people of justice and trustworthiness, and hate the people of injustice and treachery.
- [75]. When our knowledge about something is unclear, we say: 'Allāh knows best'.
- [76]. We agree with wiping over leather socks (in Wuḍū) whether on a journey or otherwise, just as has come in the (consistent and confirmed) aḥādīth.
- [77]. **Hajj** and **jihād** under the leadership of those in charge of the Muslims, whether they are right or wrong-acting, are continuing obligations until the Last Hour comes. Nothing can annul or controvert them.

AL-ĀKHIRAH: THE AFTER-LIFE

- [78]. We believe in the Noble Angels (**Kirāman Kātibīn**) who write down our actions for Allāh has appointed them over us as two guardians.
- [79]. We believe in the Angel of Death (**Malaku'l-Mawt**) who is charged with taking the spirits of all the worlds.
- [80]. We believe in the **punishment in the grave** for those who deserve it, and in the questioning in the grave by **Munkar** and **Nakir** about one's Lord, one's religion and one's prophet, as has come down in aḥādīth from the Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ), and in reports from the Companions, may Allāh be pleased with them all.
- [81]. **The grave is** either one of the meadows of the Garden or one of the pits of the Fire.
- [82]. We believe in being brought back to life after death and in being recompensed for our actions on the Day of Judgement, and **al-'Arḍ** (exhibition of deeds), having been shown them and **al-Ḥisāb** (the reckoning), brought to account for them. And **Qira'at al-Kitab** (reading of the book), and the reward or punishments and in **al-Ṣirāt** (the Bridge) and **al-Mizān** (the Balance).
- [83]. The **Garden** and the **Fire** are **created things that never come to an end** and we believe that Allāh created them before the rest of creation and then created people to inhabit each of them. Whoever He wills goes to the Garden out of His Bounty and whoever He wills goes to the Fire through His justice.

Everybody acts in accordance with what is destined for him and goes towards what he has been created for.

- [84]. Good and evil have both been decreed for people.
- [85]. The capability in terms of **Tawfiq** (Divine Grace and Favour) which makes an action certain to occur cannot be ascribed to a created being. This capability is integral with action, whereas the capability of an action in terms of having the necessary health, and ability, being in a position to act and having the necessary means, exists in a person before the action. It is this type of capability which is the object of the dictates of Shari'ah. Allāh the Exalted says: **'Allāh does not charge a person except according to his ability'**. [al-Baqarah 2: 286]
- [86]. People's **actions are created** by Allāh but earned by people.
- [87]. Allāh, the Exalted, has only charged people with what they are able to do and people are only capable of doing what Allāh (ﷻ) has granted them to do. This is the explanation of the phrase: **'There is no power and no strength except by Allāh.'** We add to this that there is no stratagem or way by which anyone can avoid or escape disobedience to Allāh except with Allāh's help; nor does anyone have the strength to put obedience to Allāh into practice and remain firm in it, except if Allāh (ﷻ) makes it possible for them to do so.
- [88]. Everything happens according to Allāh's will, knowledge, predestination and decree. His will overpowers all other wills and His decree overpowers all stratagems. He does whatever He wills and He is never unjust. He is exalted in His purity above any evil or perdition and He is perfect far beyond any fault or flaw. **'He will not be asked about what He does but they will be asked.'** [Al-Ambiyā 21: 23]
- [89]. There is benefit for dead people in the supplication and alms-giving of the living.
- [90]. **Allāh responds** to people's supplications and gives them what they ask for.
- [91]. Allāh (ﷻ) has absolute control over everything and nothing has any control over Him. Nothing can be independent of Allāh (ﷻ) even for the blinking of an eye, and whoever considers himself independent of Allāh (ﷻ) for the blinking of an eye is guilty of unbelief and becomes one of the people of perdition.
- [92]. Allāh is angered and can be pleased but not in the same way as any creature.

AS-SAHABAH: THE COMPANIONS

- [93]. We love the Companions of the Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ) but we do not go to excess in our love for any one individual among them nor do we disown any

one of them. We hate anyone who hates them or does not speak well of them and we only speak well of them. Love of them is a part of Islām, part of belief and part of excellent behaviour, while hatred of them is unbelief, hypocrisy and rebellion.

- [94]. We confirm that, after the death of the Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ), the caliphate went first to **Abū Bakr** Aṣ-Ṣiddīq (رضي الله عنه), thus proving his excellence and superiority over the rest of the Muslims; then to **'Umar** ibn Al-Khaṭṭāb (رضي الله عنه); then to **'Uthmān** (رضي الله عنه); and then to **'Ali** ibn Abī Ṭālib (رضي الله عنه). These are the Rightly-Guided Caliphs (**al-Khulafā ar-Rāshidūn**) and upright leaders.
- [95]. We bear witness that **the ten** who were named by the Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ), and who were promised the Garden by him, will be in the Garden, as the Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ), whose word is truth, bore witness that they would be. **The ten** are: Abū Bakr, 'Umar, 'Uthmān, 'Ali, Talhah, Zubayr, Sa'd, Sa'id, 'Abdur-Raḥmān ibn 'Awf and Abū 'Ubaydah ibn Al-Jarrāh whose title was the trustee of this Ummah, may Allāh be pleased with all of them.
- [96]. Anyone who speaks well of the Companions of the Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ), and his wives and offspring, who are all pure and untainted by any impurity, is free from the accusation of hypocrisy.

AL-'ULAMĀ WAL-'AWLIYĀ:

THE LEARNED SCHOLARS AND THE SAINTS

- [97]. The learned men of the Predecessors, both the first community and those who immediately followed their footsteps - the people of virtue, the narrators of ḥādīth, the jurists and analysts- they must only be spoken about in the best way and anyone who says anything bad about them is not on the right path.
- [98]. We do not prefer any of the saintly men (**awliyā'**) among the Community (Ummah) over any of the Prophets but rather we say that any one of the Prophets is better than all the **awliyā'** put together.
- [99]. We believe in what we know of the **Karāmāt**, the marvels **of the awliyā'** and in the authentic stories about them from trustworthy sources.
- [100]. We believe in the signs of **the Hour** such as the appearance of the **Dajjāl** (Antichrist) and the descent of **'Isā** ibn Maryam (عليه السلام), from heaven and we believe in the **rising of the sun** from where it sets and in the emergence of the **Beast** from the earth.
- [101]. We **do not accept** as true what **soothsayers** and **fortune-tellers** say, nor do we accept the claims of those who affirm anything which goes against the Book, the Sunnah and the consensus of the Muslim Ummah.

UNITY IN AL-ISLAM

- [102]. We agree that holding together is the true and right path and that separation is deviation and torment.
- [103]. **There is only one religion of Allāh in the heavens and the earth** and that is the religion of Islām. Allāh says: '**Surely religion in the sight of Allāh is Islām**'. [Al 'Imrān 3:19] And He also says: '**I am pleased with Islām as a religion for you**'. [Al-Māidah 5:3]
- [104]. Islām lies between going to excess and falling short, between **Tashbīh** (likening of Allāh's attributes to creation), and **Ta'tīl** (denying Allāh's attributes), between determinism and freewill, and between sureness and despair.
- [105]. This is our religion and it is what we believe in, both inwardly and outwardly, and we renounce any connection, before Allāh (ﷻ), with anyone who goes against what we have said and made clear.

AD-DU'Ā': THE SUPPLICATION

We ask Allāh (ﷻ) to make us firm in our belief and seal our lives with it and to protect us from variant ideas, scattering opinions and evil schools of view such as those of the **Mushabbihah**, the **Mu'tazilah**, the **Jahmiyyah** the **Jabriyyah**, the **Qadariyyah** and others like them who go against the Sunnah and Jamā'ah and have allied themselves with error. We renounce any connection with them and in our opinion they are in error and on the path of destruction.

We ask Allāh (ﷻ) to protect us from all falsehood and we ask His Grace and Favour to do all good.