

*The Truth  
According to  
Jesus Christ,  
the Son of Mary  
(Peace be upon them)  
And the Bible*

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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم  
الحمد لله رب العالمين و الصلاة والسلام على سيدنا مُحَمَّد و بعد:

In the Name of Allah  
Most Gracious, Most Merciful

All praises due to God alone  
May the peace and blessings be upon our prophet  
to proceed:

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## **I. Introduction**

All praises to God alone; we seek his guidance and mercy. We pray for his peace and blessings to be upon our prophet and all the prophets that were sent before him. To proceed:

This is an attempt to present the truth about our relationship with God and our fellow man in light of what can be found in the teachings of Jesus, the son of Mary and other prophets of God, May peace be upon all of them, according to the Bible. It is my aim to show the reader the truth in Jesus' teachings, his status, the position of Muhammed (peace and blessings be upon him) and what is commanded by God for us to believe concerning him. I use the Bible understanding that it is difficult for many of us living in the west to accept the unfamiliar. Further more, it is the greater Christian population that is the intended audience of this small book and as such, the bible is the authority upon which they establish their beliefs and entrust their faith.

I am well aware of the hundreds of titles out today written to serve the same purpose, however, I hope to approach the matter differently and with an air of simplicity for the ease of every reader, no matter their level of understanding, religious background or knowledge.

Many people today claim a specific religion only because of the family God will them born into. God is all wise and therefore we know He created us for a reason. As for the purpose of our creation, He sent prophets, messengers, and scriptures to educate and guide us. Our job is to investigate and to follow His guidance for our own success, in this life and the next.

I began this writing by seeking God's acceptance of this work, His guidance, His aid, and success from Him alone.

## **II. The Greatest Teaching**

*"One of them, and expert in the law, tested him with a question: 'teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the law?' Jesus replied, 'love the Lord your God with all your heart and with your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it, love your neighbor as yourself. All the laws and commandments hang on these two commandments.'" (Matt. 22:35-40)*

We find in these words of Jesus, according to the Gospel of Matthew, that the foundation of God's laws is loving God with complete love; A love which fills our heart, soul, and mind. These laws are also manifested upon our limbs as we love our neighbor as ourselves. Thus respecting, helping and protecting them.

In order for our lives to be full and successful they must contain a continual and mutual balance of spirituality and worship on one side and social justice and good manners on the other. This is the basis of religion, of truth, and a truly successful life.

To facilitate a closer look at the first two commandments, *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,"* I will bring a further illustration. This has certainly been the call of every prophet and has been explained clearly, in detail by the prophet Moses (may peace be upon him) as he is reported as saying *"Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord with all your heart and with your soul and with all your strength.... Be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. Fear the Lord your God and serve him only, and take your oaths in his name. Do not follow other gods of the peoples around you."* (Deut. 6:4,5,12-14)

So we see that this love consists of 1.) Wholesomeness, 2.) Knowing God is One, without partner or equal 3.) Loving Him sincerely 4.) Remembrance of the object of that love, 5.) Fearing His displeasure, 6.) Serving Him alone [i.e. Submitting one's self to His commands, worship Him and calling others to His path], 7.) Not make oaths by anything but His name alone, 8.) We do not share this level of love, obedient or worship with any other, without exception. And all of this is known and understood only through the teachings and examples of the prophets of God sent to guide us, showing how it is that we are to obey, worship and express our love for our Lord.

As for Jesus' saying "Love your neighbor as yourself," then the very basics of this can be likened to the commands, "Enjoin the good and forbid all evil," "Establish justice, even if it against thyself," and, "be upright in your interactions with people."

It is these two commands that are the heart of the message which every divinely revealed way of life called to - establish and preserve your relationship with God and establish and preserve your relationship with His creation.

### III. Who is Jesus?

This section will begin with biblical quotes but I will summarize it with Islamic understanding of the question, 'Who is Jesus, the son of Mary' (peace be upon them both)?

*"Jesus went there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in a synagogue, and many were heard him were amazed. 'Where did this man get these things?' they asked. 'what's the wisdom that has been given to him, that he even does miracles! ... And they took offense at him. Jesus said unto them, 'Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor.'" (Mark 6:1-4)*

*"And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth in Galilee." (Matt 21:11)*

We see here, we see here, according to Jesus' reference to himself, as well as the reference to him from multitudes, according to the Gospel, Jesus was a prophet of God. He was also described as a messenger sent with the teachings of God -

*"... And whoever welcomes me does not welcomed me but the One who sent me." (Mark 9:37)*

*" He who receives you, receives me and he who receives me receives the One who sent me." (Matt. 10:40)*

*" Jesus answered, 'my teaching is not my own, it comes from Him who sent me.'" (John 7:16)*

*" For I do not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. I know that his command leads to an eternal life. So whatever I say is just with the Father has told me to say." (John 12:49,50)*

And we know about him that he was a sincere worshipper of the One True God, as we read -

*" Going a little further, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. yet, not as I will, but as You will'." (Matt. 26:39)*

*" But Jesus often withdrew to a lonely place and prayed." (Luke 5:16)*

*" After Jesus said this, he looked over the heaven and prayed..." (John 17:1)*

He was a prophet, a messenger, a sincere worshipper of God and also, one who was in need of and dependent upon His Lord -

*" Of myself I can do nothing..." (John 5:30)*

*"Jesus gave them this answer, 'I tell you the truth, the son can do nothing by himself...' (John 5:19)*

Also we see that Jesus, may peace be upon him, was born, he ate, and he was tempted -

*" This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about..." (Matt 1:18)*

*" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it." (Luke 24:42,43)*

*" Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil." (Matt. 4:1)*

And in other verses we find that he slept and became angry and other signs that he was a human. He was a prophet, a messenger, a worshiper, dependent, and one of the creatures from the creation of God ... A human being, a man.

Some may say, 'Yes, he was a man but he was the son of God'. I will attempt to put this into its correct context, showing in the following verses that the title 'son of God' was given to the righteous throughout the bible and in no way meant "begotten".

*" They say to the pharaoh, 'this is what the Lord says: Israel is my first born son...' " (Exodus 4:22)*

*"You are the children of your Lord, your God." (Deut. 14:1)*

*" I will be his father, and he will be my son." (2 Sam. 7:14- about Solomon, peace be upon him)*

*" I will proclaim the decree of the Lord: he said to me, 'you are my son, today I have become your father." (Psalms 2:7)*

*" ...I am Israel's father..." (Jeremiah 31:9)*

*" I will be a father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." (2 Corinthians 6:18)*

And Jesus, may peace be upon him, himself said, *" Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." (Luke 6:36).* and also, *" That you may be sons of your Father in heaven... Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly father is perfect." (Matt 5:45,48)*

I hoped to show, by the verses, that the title 'son of God' was not a unique title or a lineage for Jesus, peace be upon him. Instead, it was a title appointed to the righteous and faithful believers.

In closing the section, I would like to add a verse from what God has reported in the Quran concerning Jesus, the son of Mary (peace be upon him):

*"Oh people of the book!  
Commit no excesses in your religion  
Nor say of God on but the truth.  
Christ Jesus, son of Mary,  
Was a messenger of God,  
And his word,  
which he bestowed upon Mary;  
And a spirit proceeding from him:  
So believe in Allah and his messengers. "  
(Quran 4:171)*

It is the Islamic beliefs concerning Jesus Christ that he is the word of God, a spirit from Him, born of the immaculate, miraculous birth. He was sent by God to guide his people to truth as a prophet and a messenger and he performed miracles, including healing the infirm and giving life to the lifeless, by the leave of God. He was the Messiah who was taken to the heavens alive, in the flesh, and he will return towards the end of time when he will lead the believers, fight and destroy the anti-Christ and those who follow him. He will then establish the kingdom of God upon the earth, governing what is left of mankind according to divine law. He will then die a normal death and be raised again on the day of judgement wherein he, and all of humanity, will stand before God for judgement. He will then be entered into the highest ranks of Paradise where he shall remain with the prophets, the martyrs, the truthful and the righteous for all of eternity. May God shower him with the best blessings and peace...ameen.

## **IV. Religious struggle**

*"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to turn man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter in law against her mother-in-law, a man's enemies will be members of his own household." (Matt. 10:34,35)*

*"From now on there will be five and one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother..." (Luke 12:51-53)*

It is clear that Jesus (peace be upon him) knew that his bringing the message of Truth would not only disrupt the society but even break families and so he prepares his followers with these words. The truth is like a sword cutting away the falsehood and people will reject and fight against change; against what goes against their normal understandings and cultures.

Jesus (peace be upon him) knew, understood and prepared his followers for the struggles the faithful face when they accept, and in turn, present the truth; spiritually, emotionally, intellectually, as well as physically.

The struggle to present the truth continued until eventually the Jews decided to plot the murder of Jesus (peace be upon him). It was at that point that he began to prepare his followers physically and mentally for the approach of the physical battle he anticipated.

It begins: *"He said to them, - But now, if you have a purse take it, and also a bag; and if you do not have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one." (Luke 22:36)*

This came directly after he informed them that the Jews were planning to come after him. It is as if he, peace be upon him, said get your money together and arm yourselves, we are headed for a tough struggle.

Unfortunately, they were only able to purchase two swords as we are told in Luke 22:38. (And this is a clear refutation for those claiming it was a spiritual sword. ) Upon hearing the news, Jesus, peace be upon him, said the two would be enough...why? He was only expecting a Jewish militia to come after him, not the Roman army the Jews went to for help.

Jesus, peace be upon him, let his disciples far outside the town, to a courtyard with walls built of stone. They left for the Vineyard after supper, under the cloak of darkness. (Matt. 22:36, John 18:1 ) and once they arrived he told them to sit at the entrance, all except three. Peter, who was Simon, as Peter is an English translation of rock, John and James, the sons of Zebedee, these three were taken further back in the vineyard and posted as personal guards over Jesus, peace be upon him, while he prayed. That is, a second line of defense. This is found in Matt 26:37. And it is an interesting note that the two swords were with these personal guards as will be seen.

Unfortunately, Jesus, peace be upon him, continuously found his companions napping. Three times and all, the final time he woke them and said, get ready here they come (Paraphrasing Matt 26:46).



When the militia came, the companions knew their own role and we see this clearly and Matt 26:51, Luke 22:49 and John 18:10, *"then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest servant, cutting off his right ear."* Jesus, peace be upon him, seeing that it was not just the Jews but also Romans, thus greatly enhancing the number of the enemy beyond expectation, immediately said, *"Put your swords back in their place."* (Matt 26:52) *"Put your sword away."* (John 18:11)

Jesus, peace be upon him, understood the serious charges that will be laid up on his disciples due to the current incident and its appearance so he said: *"Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching and you did not arrest me."* Matt 26:55. The same is found almost verbatim in Luke 22:52, 53. The disciples hearing these words and understanding the ramifications of the incident, fearing that if they were captured the message would come to an end, fled with the aid of God as seen according to Matt 26:56 *"then the disciples deserted him and fled."*

This is a simple retelling of the story, related in a more realistic context, as it is not a bedtime story but a history of our messiah (may peace be upon him) while he was upon this very real earth, dealing with a very real and dramatic situation.

I hope that it has been shown clearly that Jesus, may peace be upon him, not only knew about the religious struggle but also anticipated and prepared for it. Struggle, unfortunately, including physical combat, is often a consequence of spreading the truth amongst hedonistic peoples and people who instinctively follow the ways of their ancestors. But the greatest struggle is the one within ourselves to strive for justice, even when we face oppression.

## **V. Original sin**

*"For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and it acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings." (Hosea 6:6)*

*"With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of Rams, with 10,000 rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O Man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:6-8)*

*"But go and learn what this means, I desire mercy, not sacrifice." (Matt 9:13)*

*"If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent." (Matt 12:7)*

*"I tell you no! But unless you repent, you too will perish" (Luke 13:3 and repeated in verse five)*

*"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my words and believes He who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned." (John 5:24)*

*"Now this is eternal life: That they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." (John 17:3)*

In these verses it is clearly seen that God wanted mercy and not sacrifice; justice, love and humbleness was to replace the old rites of sacrifice. Jesus, may peace be upon him, taught us that we must repent. He told us clearly that knowing that there was only One True God and following the message that God sent with the Messiah, Jesus (peace be upon him) - believing in it and living accordingly it, following his example - this is the way to salvation, not through any blood sacrifice. And for those who will readily recite the verse that *'No one enters to the father but through me'* ... then I will reply that this means through the message and example which was given to us by Jesus (peace be upon him). We can see this the truth of this understanding in the above verses.

Jesus, the Messiah (may peace be upon him), never taught the concept of Original Sin and it is not found introduced until the last several years after he was raised up to heaven. As for what is taught in the Quran concerning this, we learn that Adam, after being taken from the garden of Eden and sent to earth, repented for his error and was forgiven by God. If one wants to reject this, first reflect on the law of God as found in the bible:

*"Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor children put to death for their fathers; each is to die for his own sins." (Deuteronomy 24:16)*

*"Everyone will die for his own sin." (Jeremiah 31:30)*

*"The soul who sins is the one who will die, the son shall not share the guilt of the father; nor will the father share the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous man will be credited to him and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against him."* (Ezekiel 18:20)

Even Jesus (peace be upon him) taught, *"...and then He will reward each person according to what he has done."* (Matt 16:27)

From all of this we understand that no child carries the sin of the parent; everyone will be judged independently, according to their own righteousness or wickedness. God is not interested in sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins but establish His mercy, love and justice. We are commanded to establish mercy, love and justice, and a humble character, following the word and guidance of the Messiah who was sent as an example for us. Knowing that there is only One God, obeying Him, following His guidance, and building our relationship with Him based on the teachings and examples of His messengers - this is the way to salvation, the way to eternal happiness.

## VI. The Prophecies

*"This is what the Lord says to me: "Go, post a lookout and have him report what he sees. When he sees chariots with a team of horses, riders on donkeys and riders on camels, let him be alert, fully alert." (Isaiah 21:6, 7)*

This was a prophecy of three messengers to come and it began to be fulfilled swiftly as we see in verse nine: *"Look, here comes a man with a team of horses."* After this we find in John 12:14, *"Jesus found a young donkey and set up on it, as it is written."* So the 'team of horses' was fulfilled, the 'riders on donkeys' was fulfilled but what of the final chariot? That with the riders on camels?

*"But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment...He will not speak on his own, he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come." (John 16:7, 8, 13)*

The first thing that needs to be addressed is the belief of most Christians that the counselor to be sent was the Holy Spirit. One of the main problems with this understanding is the words, *"Unless I go away, the counselor will not come to you."* This cannot be referred to the Holy Spirit since we find the Holy Spirit present and active before the time of Jesus (peace be upon him) in his time, within him, as well as those with him those with him as the following clearly shows:

*"Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me." (Psalms 51:11)*

*"Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit." (Isaiah 63:10)*

*"... She was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit." (Matt 1:18)*

*"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert." (Matt 4:1)*

*"And he (John the Baptist) Will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth." (Luke 1:15)*

*"If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:13)*

*"For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (2Peter 1:21)*

The second matter with this verse being understood as a prophecy of the Holy Spirit is that the Holy Spirit has not fulfilled the action of the prophecy, i.e. Judgment or conviction.

So we are told another counselor will be sent after Jesus (peace be upon him) was raised up to the heavens and that this counselor was that will establish justice and the laws of God. But there are other descriptions of this prophet's coming also:

*"And The book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying read this, I pray thee. And he will say I am not learned." (Isaiah 29:12)*

*"For precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little and their little: for with stammering lips and another tongue will speak to his people." (Isaiah 28:10, 11)*

*"For then will I turn to the people if your language, that they may all call upon the name of their Lord to serve him with one consent." (Zeph. 3:9)*

The Prophet Mohammed, may peace be upon him, was an unlettered orphan. He was raised on the religion called Hanifiyyah which was the remnants of the faith of Abraham kept in Arabia through his son, Ishmael. Though most of the Arabs of that period were Idolators, the family of Muhammad was part of the small minority of the Haniffiyya. As an adult, he would often go to the cave called 'Hira' in order to meditate and contemplate; it was on one such retreat that the voice boomed around him in the cave saying, 'iqra' (read, in Arabic). he replied, peace be upon him, 'I cannot read'. He then felt as if something squeezed him mightily until he was very weak; he was then released. Again the command came, 'READ' and again he replied, 'I cannot read'. Again he was squeezed a release and the third time the command came, this time, *"Read in the name of your Lord who created you..."*; he repeated the words that he heard and he found them memorized instantly, as if they were embedded in his heart and mind. He then saw the speaker, the angel Gabriel who was sent to him by God. This is how the revelation of the Qur'an began.

The Qur'an was not revealed all at once but in piecemeal over a 23 year period. It was revealed in the Arabic language, which is the semitic sister of Hebrew. Every Muslim around the world learns at least a small portion of the Qur'an ( and hundreds of thousands memorize the entire Quran) in Arabic, as well as understanding its meaning in whatever their mother tongue may be. Every Muslim calls upon God in the same language, reciting the Qur'an in the pure Arabic tongue in which it was revealed.

I'm aware that many people object to the assertion that Mohammed, peace be upon him, was a prophet, calling him instead, a false prophet. I say let's put him to the test:

*"Watch out for false prophets.... by their fruits you will recognize them." (Matthew 7:15, 20)*

*"So Jesus called To them and spoke to them and parables: 'How can Satan drive out Satan? If I kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If the house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. If Satan opposes himself and is divided. He cannot stand; his and his come.'" (Mark 3:23-26)*

*"But A prophet who presumes to speak in the name of anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die" (Deuteronomy 18:20)*

The Prophet Mohammed, may peace be upon him, took a pagan, Idolatrous land, in the middle of the dark ages, and establish the worship of God alone. This call spread through North Africa, Asia, and parts of Europe, swiftly illuminating the world. He called to the submission and worship of God alone,

striving against the whispers of Satan and the vices of our own souls. He strove against every form of idolatry and established justice in The land. He taught love and respect for all the prophets who preceded him as well as for humanity in general.

He made the call to worship of God alone for 23 years; the first 13 were filled with oppression , aggression, a boycott, and attempts on his life. This lasted until God commanded him to migrate to another city, where he was strengthened by God, establishing the first Islamic state, and the first recorded constitution which had as part of its core articles that all citizens would be treated equally before the law while remaining free to remain upon and practice their own faiths.

So we see his fruits – he opposed Satan, the worship of any other then the One True God. We find that for 23 years he called to God, in God's name and, in the end, he was successful. So, based on all the above, we find that Mohammed, may peace be upon him, fulfilled the prophecies of the prophet to come and also pass the test which are found in the bible.

## **VII. The Truth**

It is recorded of the prophet Muhammed (may the best benedictions and peace be upon him) said:

"Whoever bears witness  
That there is nothing worthy of worship other than God alone  
And that Mohammed is his servant in messenger  
And that Jesus, the son of Mary,  
Is a servant and a messenger of God,  
His word and his spirit from him  
And declare is heaven is a reality  
And that hell is a reality  
– they will attain paradise

1.) "God is one": that is, without partner all equal; and is found throughout the Bible and such versus as:

*"You shall have no other gods before Me" (Exodus 20:3)*

*"Acknowledge, and take heart this day, that the Lord is God in heaven above and on earth below. There is no other." (Deuteronomy 4:39)*

*"So that all the peoples on the earth may know that the Lord is God and there is no other." (1 Kings 8:60)*

*"You are my witnesses, declares the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no God has formed, nor will there be after me. I, even I, the Lord, From Me there is no savior." (Isaiah 43:10, 11)*

*"You Believe that there is One God. Good! Even the demons believe that and shudder." (James 2:19)*

2.) "Muhammad (may the best benedictions and peace be upon him) is God's servant in messenger": this was evidenced in the last chapter and I hope will be investigated further by the reader. This belief makes it obligatory upon the believer to follow the guidance an example given by him, as we understand his life, as a messenger, was nothing other than the legislation of God manifested as an example for us.

3.) "Jesus, the son of Mary (peace be upon them both)": we must affirm that Jesus, peace be upon him, was born of a miraculous birth. He was born of the virgin Mary, without being sired.

4.) "Jesus, peace be upon him, is God's servant and Messenger": this was addressed in a third chapter, but to elaborate on these two titles, the Christians have raised him to the level of Savior and deity while the Jews have deemed him as a bastard, a blasphemer, and a false prophet. Here, we are shown that Jesus, peace be upon him, was a servant of God and therefore not an equal or a partner; thus correcting the misconception of Christianity. We also see that he is God's messenger and therefore not in a lowly

position at all, rather, he ranks high before God; thus correcting the misconception held by the Jews. In Islam we believe in and uphold the middle course concerning our Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary (peace be upon them both).

5.) "God's word and a spirit from Him": Jesus, peace be upon him, was created by the command of God, '*BE*'. At this command, the fetus began to develop in the womb of the Virgin Mother, Mary (peace be upon her). Then, at the appropriate stage, God sent a spirit prepared by Him, the soul of Jesus Christ, to the womb. Thus, the creation of Jesus in the womb of the blessed mother who was pure and protected by God (may peace be upon them both).

6.) "Heaven and hell are realities": therefore, prepare. One may doubt many matters but death is something no one denies as a universal reality. This limited, short, and trying life is only a test for us. We have been sent teachers, text books, all of the answers, as well as the the evidence for all of this...it is up to us whether we strive to pass or to fail.

7.) "They will attain paradise": if we lived by this, with all of its implications, we will pass this test and be rewarded with the grace of God, His pleasure and in the hereafter, we will be blessed with the ability to gaze upon Him.



## **VIII. Epilogue**

In closing, I want to explain who a Muslim is and how one becomes a Muslim; this is what follows:

A Muslim must believe in the oneness of God, his perfection, love, justice, mercy and sovereignty. We must believe in all of the prophets sent by God, those we know of and those we do not, and that Mohammed was the seal of prophethood, the last messenger sent by God for the guidance of mankind. We believe in Angels, which are a creation from amongst the creation of God, made of light and completely obedient to the Creator. We believe in the pure form of all the books revealed by God to His messengers, though some were lost, and others were distorted. We believe that the Quran was the final book revealed and is protected by God to complete and purify the revealed guidance for mankind and abrogate those laws which came before it. Muslims must also believe in predestination and fate based on God's command, knowledge and wisdom, as well as the belief in the day of judgement.

A Muslim is one who bears witness to God's absolute oneness and that Muhammad (peace be upon him) is God's messenger. He establishes the obligatory five daily prayers in the manner prescribed by the prophet. He pays the annual poor due; he fasts a complete fast, annually, from dawn to dusk, throughout the month of Ramadan; and he makes a pilgrimage to the sacred house in Mecca at least once in his life, if he is able.

A Muslim should be honest, kind, and sincere. He should work toward the establishment of justice, enjoining good; forbidding evil, and spreading consciousness of God to those close to him. The best of Muslims are those who live as though they see God before them and if they cannot, they are mindful that God sees them.

*"I bear witness that there is no true deity other than God, Alone  
and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and messenger."*

If this work lights a spark in the heart of at least one reader, then it is from the blessings of God and I ask that He accept this work from me, forgive me my shortcomings and guide us all to His straight path....Ameen.

## **Appendix:**

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

All praise is due to Allah alone who Created man out of His divine wisdom and then sent for them guidance out of His mercy. May the best benedictions and peace be upon the beloved of Allah who was the perfect example of servitude to Allah. To proceed:

Having been asked for information concerning ‘who is Allah’, the manifestations of His signs, the fundamental tenets of Tawheed and the facts surrounding this topic, this response is hoped to suffice the seeker and be of benefit to all who read it. It is entitled,

*An Introduction to the Science of Tawheed*

*And Concise Notes for the one in Need*

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To begin, it is known that the proper name used to refer to the One True God in Islam is Allah but there is a difference of opinion concerning the origin of this name. Some of the scholars say the name is a revealed name, established by God Himself. Other scholars say that it is actually a conjunction of الاله (al-ilaah) or Thee God. Yet another group says that it is derived from واليه (waliha) which means that love which drives one to utter distraction due to preoccupation with the object of one’s love. In reality, the name الله supports all three positions as Allah is the object of that absolute love which preoccupies the hearts, He is Thee God and yet the name is a proper name that refuses dual, plural or feminine forms and hence it is only fitting for God Almighty as He revealed it for Himself in the Quran.

Now, when one says “Allah” what is meant? Is it used to refer to an idol? The ancient Arab moon god? The father of a pantheon of gods? One part of a triune deity? A being that is found through out creation? Some form of Energy? Forces of nature or of ‘good’? What exactly is meant? In order for clarity, some of our scholars, such as Imam An-Nawawi (may Allah have mercy upon him) and others, have considered it an obligation upon every Muslim to know thirteen attributes of Allah. These attributes offer a criterion by which the Muslim can understand the One named ‘Allah’. This is not a definition as definitions tend to limit and delimit while Allah is infinite and can not be confined by the finite. Rather, these thirteen attributes serve more as a means of negating that which is not Allah.

These thirteen attributes are broken down into three categories – the one necessary attribute, the five negating attributes and the seven affirming attributes. As for the necessary attribute, it is that Allah exists and the proof for this is three fold. First, scientifically speaking it is understood that non-existence can not influence, choose or act since it is not. Therefore, anything that does not exist needs something in existence to bring it from the state of non-existence into existence. Understanding this, it is clear that in order for anything to exist, even a single sub-atomic particle, there must be a creator who brought it into creation from a state of non-existence. Second, it is known that the universe works according to very exact and uncompromising laws such as gravity. These laws of physics have been established from the first instance of creation and hence, they too are in need of a Maker. Since there is no dispute that there are in fact laws of physics, then it becomes clear that there must also be a Lawmaker. Third, seeing the

exactness of the mathematical design in creation, from the rotation of planets to the Fibonacci sequence and golden ratio, there is clearly beauty and design in the creation. If there is such design, it warrants a belief in a designer. Looking at this, the need for a creator, a lawmaker and a designer, it becomes clear that Allah does in fact exist and this is as He said in the Qur'an,

*“Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and the earth  
And the alternation of the night and day  
There are signs for men of understanding”  
(3:190)*

Now, concerning the five negating attributes, they are as follows:

1.) Allah is Eternally Pre-Existent, existing before all creation. The proof of this is the fact that non-existence can not act, influence or choose as it does not exist and so one already in existence must bring that which does not exist into existence – including time and space. Concerning this attribute Allah says,

*“He is the First...”  
(57:3)*

2.) Allah is Eternal, never ceasing to be. This is confirmed by His Eternal Pre-Existence since that which was before creation, that which creation is contingent upon, must remain after creation as well. This is as Allah has said,

*“But the countenance of your Lord will remain forever...”  
(55:27)*

3.) Allah is absolutely without need, Self Sufficient. This is made clear by the fact that He existed and there was nothing other than Him. About this, Allah has said,

*“O’ Mankind!  
It is you that are in need of Allah  
But Allah is free of all needs, worthy of all praise”  
(35:15)*

4.) Allah is Unique, completely unlike creation. It is proof enough of this that all of creation is contingent upon a creator while the Creator is not contingent upon anything. Allah told us in the Qur'an,

*“There is nothing at all like Him in any way”  
(42:11)*

5.) Allah is Absolutely One, without partners, equals or divisions. This is clear from the symmetry found throughout creation – even in what is considered chaos, a type of harmony is found. Concerning this Allah has said,

*“Say: He is Allah, The One”  
(112:1)*

All six of these attributes are found preserved and made easy to know in Surah Ikhlas which is also named Surah Tawheed. After these six, come the final seven attributes which have been termed the affirming attributes. They are:

1.) Allah is Omniscient, All-Knowing, which is known through seeing the exact precision and exactness of the laws and designs which permeate creation. In fact, the more one studies math and science the more one gets a glimpse at the perfection of knowledge of Allah, the Mighty and Majestic. He informed us concerning this,

*“Indeed, Allah has perfect knowledge of all things”*  
(2:231)

2.) Allah has perfect volition, absolute will without any compulsion to act or refrain from action. This is known through the diversity and intricacies throughout creation. Concerning this, Allah said,

*“Indeed, your Lord is He who does that which He wills”*  
(11:107)

3.) Allah is Omnipotent, All-Powerful, which is known by the very fact that there is creation. He revealed for us,

*“Indeed, Allah has power over all things”*  
(2:20)

It is by these three attributes, His Knowledge, Will and Power, that Allah created all of existence.

4.) Allah is Living as is clear since Knowledge, Volition and power can not be attributed to that which is without life. Allah has made this clear when He said,

*“He is the Living”*  
(40:65)

5, 6, and 7.) Allah Hears, Sees and Speaks which is made clear by His words,

*“I Hear and I See”*  
(20:46)

And,

*“And to Moses, Allah spoke directly”*  
(4:164)

There is another attribute, a fourteenth attribute, that not only makes the previous thirteen clearer but also clarifies the foolishness of the philosophers. That attribute is Allah's Absolute Perfection. No imperfection can draw near to Allah and so non-existence, needing a creator, having any need whatsoever, ignorance, inability, coercion, blindness, deafness, muteness, ceasing to be, or to be non-living are all inconceivable for Allah. Understanding that any imperfection is inconceivable for Allah, it becomes clear that death, foolishness and change can never be attributed to the One True God.

These fourteen attributes are not the only attributes of our Lord, but rather the number is unknown. Scholars have enumerated well over two hundred names and attributes but in the end the prophet (may the best blessings and peace be upon him) informed us that there are those names that Allah revealed to mankind and those which He did not, and still there are some that He, the Mighty and Majestic, kept to Himself. Those attributes that are known, some scholars have divided them into two groups – the first are the essential attributes (sifaatu – dhaatihi) which are those attributes whose opposites are inconceivable for Allah such as **الْقُدُّوس** (The absolutely Pure and Holy), **السَّلَام** (The Source of peace and Perfection), and **الْمَجِيد** (the Glorious and Exalted). The second are the active attribute (sifaatu – fi’liyyah) which are those attributes whose opposites are conceivable for Allah such as **الْغَفَّار** (The Oft-Forgiving), **الْخَافِض** (the Abaser), and **الرَّافِع** (The One Who raises in Rank).

Other scholars divided the names into two other groupings – those which reflect His Majesty (Jalaalihi) and those which reflect His Beauty (Jamaalihi). In this way, one sees from His majesty attributes such as **الْعَزِيز** (The Exalted in Might and Power) and **الْعَدْل** (The Absolute Just). While from His beauty one finds attributes such as **الرَّحْمَن** (The All-Merciful) and **الْوَدُود** (The Loving). This division into attributes of Majesty and attributes of Beauty is very beneficial for the one seeking to better know his or her Lord. The prophet (may the best blessings and peace be upon him) said that “Spiritual excellence (Ihsaan) is to see your Lord before you and if you can not see Him, know that He sees you.” One can never see Allah in this life however one can see the indications and signs of Allah in the creation and so it is as though you see your Lord by observing His attributes manifested in creation. This understanding is supported by what is attributed to the prophet (may the best blessings and peace be upon him) in meaning and then Ja’fr As-Saadiq (may Allah be pleased with him) after him with the words, “Beware to ponder over the essence of Allah. But if you wish to view His grandeur, contemplate the spectacle of His creations.” All of creation points back to Allah. It is by His creation that we know Him and so it is beneficial for us to look for the attributes of Allah’s Majesty and Beauty throughout His creation – from the exploding super-nova to the gentle butterfly, from the quaking of the earth to the smile of a loving face – all are signs and indications of our perfect Lord.

Allah informed us in the Qur’an that He did not create mankind except to worship Him. That is the first, fundamental and greatest command revealed to every single prophet and messenger sent by God. It is also the very first command found in the Qur’an as Allah says,

*“O’ Mankind!  
Worship your Guardian Lord,  
Your sovereign who created you and those who came before you”  
(2:21)*

If this is the greatest commandment, the very purpose of our being, it stands to reason that the greatest sin is to commit shirk and Allah made this clear when He said,

*“Indeed!  
Allah does not forgive that one associate anything with Him*

*But He forgives other than that whatever He pleases.  
And whoever associates anything with Allah  
he has indeed perpetrated a great sin ”  
(4:48)*

In order to protect one's self from falling into the greatest of sins, it is essential to understand the concept of Tawheed (The Oneness of Allah). There are three branches of Tawheed and to violate any of them constitutes shirk, the greatest of all sins.

The first branch is Tawheed Ar-Ruboobiyya or, the Oneness of His Lordship. This means that there is no sovereignty, no authority, no power and no might over Allah. It contains within it two key aspects : 'There is no obedience to the creation if it entails disobedience to the Creator.' And, 'One's reliance is to be solely and absolutely upon Allah, and one's affairs should be turned over to Him with trust'. The proof of this branch of Tawheed is Allah's saying,

*“All praise is due to Allah, Lord of all creation ”  
(1:1)*

That which negates one's Tawheed ar-Ruboobiyya is to believe that anything in creation has the ability to cause benefit or prevent harm.

The second branch is Tawheed Al-Ibaadah or, the Oneness of His being worshipped. This means that it is a reality that nothing has the right to be worshipped other than Allah as He is the source of all benefit and is in Himself absolutely perfect. The proof for this branch of Tawheed is Allah's saying,

*“Allah!  
There is no God other than Him  
So then, in Allah let the believers put their trust ”  
(64:13)*

That which negate one's Tawheed Al-Ibaadah is to bow, prostrate, pray or supplicate to anything other than Allah.

The third branch is Tawheed Al-Asma was-Sifaat or, the Oneness of His Names and Attributes. This means that Allah is absolutely other than His creation , He is unlike anything from His creation and nothing from creation resembles Him in any way. This entails that regardless of what comes to one's mind, Allah is other than and Greater than that. Our intellects are finite while Allah is infinite and the finite can never encompass the infinite. The proof for this branch of Tawheed is Allah's saying,

*“There is nothing similar to Him in any way ”  
(42:11)*

That which negates this Tawheed Al-Asma was-Sifaat is to attribute to creation attributes that are only fitting to Allah or to attribute to Allah any likeness to His Creation.

So it is by knowing Allah, worshipping Him and seeing His attributes of majesty and beauty, His signs and indications in His creation, and guarding the three branches of Tawheed that we will meet our Lord in the best of states, having fulfilled the purpose of our existence in a state of spiritual excellence. And this can only be done by following closely the living sunnah of His beloved (may the best benedictions and peace be upon him) sent to guide us and demonstrate how to achieve our fullest human potential – to be true servants of Allah.

Let it be clear, one who understands this well and lives accordingly has the glad tidings of the prophet (may the best benedictions and peace be upon him) as he said, “He who bears witness to لا اله الا الله (There is no God but Allah) with his heart, verifying it with his tongue, shall enter the garden from any of its gates he wishes.”

But also take heed of saying about your Lord that which you do not know as Allah warned,

*“Do you say about Allah that which you do not know?  
Say: verily those who invent a lie concerning Allah will never succeed”  
(10:69)*

So we end with glad tidings and warnings in order that the seekers after this knowledge guard themselves concerning their Lord, strive for His good pleasure and seek refuge in Him from His displeasure and in the end, with Allah alone is success.