

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Usooluth Thalaathah

Author: **Shaikh Muhammad bin ‘Abdul-Wahhaab
(may Allah have mercy upon him)**

Translator: Abu ‘Abdis Salaam Siddiq Al Juyaanee

It is obligatory upon every Muslim man and woman that they know (have knowledge of) three fundamental principles, which are (as follows):

- 1: Knowledge about his Lord.
- 2: Knowledge about his Religion.
- 3: Knowledge about his Prophet (*sall>Allaahu alaihi wasallam*).

The First Principle

If you are asked, “Who is your Lord?” Say, my Lord is He who reared me out of His bounty, created me from nothing and brought me into existence. The proof of this is His, the Most High’s statement,

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ رَبِّي وَرَبُّكُمْ فَاعْبُدُوهُ هَذَا صِرَاطٌ مُسْتَقِيمٌ﴾

“Verily Allah is my Lord and the Lord of you All, so worship Him (alone), this is the straight path.”
[Surah ‘Aali ‘Imraan: 51]

If you are asked, “How did you come to know your Lord?” Say, I have come to know my Lord by His signs and His creation. As far as the proof (for knowing Him by way of His signs then) it is His statement,

﴿وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ اللَّيْلُ وَالنَّهَارُ وَالشَّمْسُ وَالْقَمَرُ لَا تَسْجُدُوا لِلشَّمْسِ وَلَا لِلْقَمَرِ وَاسْجُدُوا لِلَّهِ الَّذِي خَلَقَهُنَّ إِن كُنتُمْ إِيَّاهُ تَعْبُدُونَ﴾

“And from among His signs are the night and the day, and the sun and the moon. Prostrate yourselves neither to the sun nor to the moon, rather prostrate yourselves to Allah Who created them, if you (really) worship Him.”
[Suratul Fussilaat: 37]

From the proof (of knowing Him by way of His creation) is His statement,

﴿إِنَّ رَبَّكُمُ اللَّهُ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ فِي سِتَّةِ أَيَّامٍ ثُمَّ اسْتَوَىٰ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ يُغْشِي اللَّيْلَ النَّهَارَ يَطْلُبُهُ حَثِيثًا وَالشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ وَالنُّجُومَ مُسَخَّرَاتٍ بِأَمْرِهِ أَلَا لَهُ الْخَلْقُ وَالْأَمْرُ تَبَارَكَ اللَّهُ رَبُّ الْعَالَمِينَ﴾

“Indeed, your Lord is Allah, Who created the heavens and the earth in six days, and then rose over the Throne (in a manner that suits His Majesty). He brings the night as a cover over the day, seeking it rapidly, and (He created) the sun, the moon, the stars, subjected to His command. Surely, His is the creation and commandment. Blessed is Allah, the Lord of mankind, jinn and all that exists.”

[Suratul A’raaf: 54]

If you are asked, “For what purpose did Allah create you?”
Say, Allah created me so that I may worship Him, obey Him, follow His orders and stay away from what He prohibited. The proof of (our being created to worship Him) is His statement,

﴿وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ مَا أُرِيدُ مِنْهُمْ مِنْ رِزْقٍ وَمَا أُرِيدُ أَنْ يُطْعَمُونِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الرَّزَّاقُ ذُو الْقُوَّةِ الْمَتِينُ﴾

“And I (Allah) did not create the jinn and mankind except that they should worship Me (alone). I seek not any provision from them nor do I ask that they should feed Me. Verily, Allah is the Provider for All, Owner of Power, the Most Strong.”

[Suratudh Dhaariyaat: 56-58]

The proof (that we have been created to) obey Him is His statement,

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ فَإِنْ تَنَازَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ﴾

“O you who believe! Obey Allah and obey the Messenger, and those who are in authority over you. And if you differ in anything amongst yourselves, refer it to Allah and His Messenger.” [Suratun Nisaa: 59]

What is meant is the Book of Allah (The Qur’an), and the Sunnah of His Prophet (*sall>Allaahu alaihi wasallam*).

If you are asked, “What are the things that Allah has ordered you with and prohibited you from?” Say, Allah has ordered me with Tawheed and prohibited me from Shirk. The proof of this is His, the Most High’s statement,

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ
وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ﴾

“Verily, Allah enjoins Al ‘Adl (justice and worshipping none but Allah Alone), Al Ihsaan (to be patient in performing your duties to Allah, totally for Allah’s sake and in accordance with the Sunnah of the Prophet in a perfect manner) and giving (help) to kith and kin. And forbids Al Fahshaa (evil deeds, illegal sexual acts, disobedience of parents, shirk, to tell lies to give false witness, to kill without right), Al Munkar (all that is prohibited by Islaam) and Al Baghy (all kinds of oppression). He admonishes you, that you may take heed.” [Suratun Nahl: 90]

The proof for the prohibition of Shirk, is His the Most High’s statement,

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَغْفِرُ أَنْ يُشْرَكَ بِهِ وَيَغْفِرُ مَا دُونَ ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ﴾

“Verily, Allah forgives not that Shirk (partners should be set up with Him (in worship) but He forgives from other than that to whom He wills.” [Suratun Nisaa: 48]

And

﴿ مَنْ يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ الْجَنَّةَ وَمَأْوَاهُ النَّارُ
وَمَا لِلظَّالِمِينَ مِنْ أَنْصَارٍ ﴾

“Whoever associates partners with Allah in worship (i.e. makes Shirk), then verily, Allah will make Jennah (heaven) prohibited for him and his abode will be the fire and the wrong-doers will have no helpers.” [Suratul Maa'idah: 72]

The Second Principle

If you are asked, “What is your religion?” Say, my religion is Islaam; (Islaam) is to submit ones self to Allah, and to turn to Him in obedience. The proof of this is His, the Most High’s statement,

﴿إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ﴾

“Verily the religion with Allah is Islaam.”
[Suratul Aali ‘Imraan: 19]

And

﴿وَمَنْ يَتَّبِعْ غَيْرَ الْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ وَهُوَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ﴾

“And whoever seeks a religion other than Islaam, it will never be accepted from him, and in the Hereafter he will be one of the losers.” [Suratul Aali ‘Imraan: 85]

Islaam is built upon five pillars.

- 1: The Shahaadah (declaration) that nothing has the right to be worshiped in truth except Allah, and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.
- 2: The establishment of the Salaat (the prayer).
- 3: The payment of Zakaah (yearly charity).
- 4: The fasting of the month of Ramadaan.

5: Hajj (pilgrimage) to the house (Ka'bah) for the one who is capable (of the journey).

The proof of the (first part of the) Shahaadah, nothing has the right to be worshipped in truth except Allah, is Allah's statement,

﴿شَهِدَ اللَّهُ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ وَأُولُوا الْعِلْمِ قَائِمًا بِالْقِسْطِ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ﴾

“Allah bears witness that nothing has the right to be worshipped in truth but Him, and (so do bear witness to this) the angels and those having knowledge. (He always) maintains His creation in justice. Nothing has the right to be worshipped in truth but Him, the All Mighty, the All Wise.” [Suratul Aali Imraan: 18]

The proof of the (second part of the Shahaadah) Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah, is His the Most High's statement,

﴿مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ أَبَا أَحَدٍ مِنْ رِجَالِكُمْ وَلَكِنْ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَخَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ﴾

“Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the last of the Prophets.” [Suratul Ahzaab: 40]

The proof of the Salaat (prayer), is Allah’s statement,

﴿إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ كَانَتْ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ كِتَابًا مَوْقُوتًا﴾

“Verily As Salaat (the Prayer) is enjoined on the believers at fixed hours.” [Suratun Nisaa: 103]

The proof of Zakaah (yearly charity), is His the Most High’s statement,

﴿خُذْ مِنْ أَمْوَالِهِمْ صَدَقَةً تُطَهِّرُهُمْ وَتُزَكِّيهِمْ بِهَا وَصَلِّ عَلَيْهِمْ إِنَّ صَلَاتَكَ سَكَنٌ لَهُمْ﴾

“Take Sadaqah (charity) from their wealth in order to purify them and sanctify them with it, and invoke Allah for them. Verily, your invocations are a source of security for them.” [Suratut Taubah: 103]

The proof of Fasting in Ramadaan, is His the Most High’s statement,

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ﴾

“O you who believe! Fasting has been prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you.”

[Suratul Baqarah: 183]

If you are asked, “Do you fast for a whole month?” Say, yes; the proof for this is Allah’s statement,

﴿شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِنَ الْهُدَى وَالْفُرْقَانِ فَمَنْ شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ﴾

“The month of Ramadaan in which was revealed the Qur’an, a guidance for mankind and clear proofs for the guidance and the criterion (between right and wrong). So whoever of you sights (crescent on the first night of) the month (of Ramadaan) he must observe fast that month.”

[Suratul Baqarah: 185]

If you are asked, “Do you fast during the night or the day?” Say, (I fast) during the day, the proof is Allah’s statement,

﴿وَكُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا حَتَّى يَتَبَيَّنَ لَكُمُ الْخَيْطُ الْأَبْيَضُ مِنَ الْخَيْطِ الْأَسْوَدِ مِنَ الْفَجْرِ ثُمَّ أَتَمُوا الصِّيَامَ إِلَى اللَّيْلِ﴾

“And eat and drink until the white thread (light) of dawn appears to you distinct from the black thread (darkness of night), then complete your fast till nightfall.”

[Suratul Baqarah: 187]

The proof for Hajj is His, the Most High’s statement,

﴿وَلِلَّهِ عَلَى النَّاسِ حِجُّ الْبَيْتِ مَنِ اسْتَطَاعَ إِلَيْهِ سَبِيلًا وَمَنْ كَفَرَ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ غَنِيٌّ عَنِ الْعَالَمِينَ﴾

“And Hajj (pilgrimage to Makkah) to the House (Ka’bah) is a duty that mankind owes to Allah, those who can afford the expenses (of the journey, provisions and residence); and whoever disbelieves, then Allah stands in no need of any of the jinn, mankind nor the rest of creation.”

[Suratul Aali ‘Imraan: 97]

If you are asked, “What is Imaan (faith)?” Say faith is, to believe in Allah, His Angels, His Books, His Messengers, The Last Day, and to believe in Qadar (divine decree) the good and bad of it, (all of it is) from Allah the Most High. The proof is Allah’s statement,

﴿آمَنَ الرَّسُولُ بِمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ رَبِّهِ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ كُلٌّ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ
وَكُتُبِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ لَا نُفَرِّقُ بَيْنَ أَحَدٍ مِنْ رُسُلِهِ وَقَالُوا سَمِعْنَا وَأَطَعْنَا غُفْرَانَكَ رَبَّنَا
وَإِلَيْكَ الْمَصِيرُ﴾

“The Messenger believes in what has been sent down to him from his Lord, and so do the believers. Each one believes in Allah, His Angels, and His Books. (They say,) “We make no distinction between one another of His Messengers,” and they say, “We hear, and obey. (We seek) Your forgiveness our Lord, and to You is the return.”
[Suratul Baqarah: 285]

The proof for Qadar is Allah’s statement,

﴿إِنَّا كُلَّ شَيْءٍ خَلَقْنَاهُ بِقَدَرٍ﴾

“Verily, We have created all things with Qadar (Divine Decrees).” [Suratul Qamar: 49]

If it is said to you, “What is Ihsaan?” Say (Ihsaan is to), worship Allah as if you see Him, and though you do not see Him, verily he sees you. The proof is Allah’s statement,

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ مُحْسِنُونَ﴾

“Truly, Allah is with those who fear Him (keep their duty unto Him) and those who are Muhsinoon (good-doers).”
[Suratun Nahl: 128]

If you are asked, “Do the Kuffaar (disbelievers) deny the resurrection (on the Day of Judgment)?” Say, yes, and the proof is His the Most High’s statement,

﴿زَعَمَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَنْ لَنْ يُبْعَثُوا قُلْ بَلَىٰ وَرَبِّي لَتُبْعَثُنَّ ثُمَّ لَتُنَبَّؤُنَّ بِمَا عَمِلْتُمْ
وَذَلِكَ عَلَى اللَّهِ يَسِيرٌ﴾

“The disbelievers pretend that they will never be resurrected (for account). Say (to them O Muhammad) “Yes! By my Lord, you will certainly be resurrected, then you will be informed of (and recompensed for) what you did; and that is easy for Allah.” [Suratut Taghaabun: 7]

The Third Principle

If you are asked, “Who is your Prophet?” Say, (my Prophet is) Muhammad the son of Abdullah, the son of Abdul Muttalib, the son of Haashim. Haashim is from the Quraish, the Quraish are from Kinaanah and Kinaanah is from the Arabs. The Arabs are from the lineage of the (Prophet) Ismaa’eel (Ishmael). ‘Ismaa’eel is (the son of the Prophet) Ibraaheem (Abraham) the friend of Allah. Ibraaheem is from (the Prophet) Nuh (Noah). Nuh is from (the Prophet) Aadam (Adam), and Aadam is from dust (*alaihimus salaam*). The proof of (Aadam being from dust) is Allah’s statement,

﴿ إِنَّ مَثَلَ عِيسَىٰ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ كَمَثَلِ آدَمَ خَلَقَهُ مِنْ تُرَابٍ ثُمَّ قَالَ لَهُ كُنْ فَيَكُونُ ﴾

“Verily, the likeness of ‘Isa (Jesus) with Allah is like the likeness of Aadam. He created him (Aadam) from dust, then (He) said to him: “Be!” and he was.”
[Suratul Aali ‘Imraan: 59]

If you are asked, “Who was the first Messenger?” Say, the first of the Messengers was Nuh (*alaihiss salaam*) and the last Messenger is Muhammad (*sallAllaahu alaihi wasallam*). The proof of this is His, the Most High’s statement,

﴿أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ كَمَا أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَى نُوحٍ وَالنَّبِيِّينَ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ﴾

“We have sent the Revelation to you (O Muhammad) as We have sent the Revelation to Nuh and to the Prophets after him.” [Suratun Nisaa: 163]

If you are asked, “Were there between Nuh and Muhammad (*alaihimi salaam*) Messengers?” Say, Yes, and the proof of this is Allah’s statement,

﴿وَلَقَدْ بَعَثْنَا فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَسُولًا أَنْ أُعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَاجْتَنِبُوا الطَّاغُوتَ﴾

“And We have sent to every nation a Messenger proclaiming to them, “Worship Allah (Alone) and stay away from (all) false gods”.” [Suratun Nahl: 36]

If you are asked, “Is Muhammad (*alaihisi salaatu was salaam*) a human?” Say, yes, and the proof of this is His the Most High’s statement,

﴿قُلْ إِنَّمَا أَنَا بَشَرٌ مِّثْلُكُمْ يُوحَىٰ إِلَيَّ أَنَّمَا إِلَهُكُمُ إِلَهٌ وَاحِدٌ فَمَن كَانَ يَرْجُوا لِقَاءَ رَبِّهِ فَلْيَعْمَلْ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا وَلَا يُشْرِكْ بِعِبَادَةِ رَبِّهِ أَحَدًا﴾

“Say (O Muhammad) “I am only a man like you. It has been revealed to me that your Ilaah (God) is One. So whoever hopes for the meeting with his Lord, let him work righteousness and associate none as a partner in the worship of his Lord.” [Suratul Kahf: 110]

If you are asked, “Is Muhammad (*sall-Allaahu alaihi wasallam*) the slave (of Allah)?” Say, yes, and the proof of this is Allah’s statement,

﴿سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَىٰ بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا مِّنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَى الَّذِي بَارَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ﴾

“Glorified (and Exalted) be He (Allah) Who took His slave (Muhammad) for a journey by night from Al Masjid Al Haram (in Makkah) to Al Masjid Al Aqsa (in Jerusalem), the neighborhood whereof We have blessed.” [Suratul Israa’a: 1]

If you are asked, “What was the age of the Prophet Muhammad (*sall-Allaahu alaihi wasallam*)?” Say, he (*alahis salaam*) was 63 years old. (He lived for) forty years before he became a Prophet and for twenty three years as a Prophet/Messenger. He

became a Prophet by the revealing of (the first few verses of Suratul ‘Alaq) “Iqraa”, and he became a messenger with (the first few verses of Suratul) Muddaththir; after which he went out amongst people and said,

«يا أيها الناس إني رسول الله إليكم جميعا»

“O mankind, verily I’m Allah’s Messenger who has been sent to all of you.”

(After that) the people belied him, harmed him, banished (ostracized) him, and said that he was a magician and a liar. (Due to this) Allah revealed to him,

﴿وَإِنْ كُنْتُمْ فِي رَيْبٍ مِّمَّا نَزَّلْنَا عَلَيَّ عَبْدَنَا فَأْتُوا بِسُورَةٍ مِثْلِهِ وَادْعُوا شُهَدَاءَكُمْ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ﴾

“And if you (Arab pagans, Jews and Christians) are in doubt concerning that which We have sent down (i.e. the Qur’an) to Our slave (Muhammad), then produce a chapter of the like thereof and call your witnesses (supporters and helpers) besides Allah, if you are truthful.”

[Suratul Baqarah: 23]

The Prophet Muhammad (*sallAllaahu alaihi wasallam*) was born in Makkah and lived there (for sometime). Later he migrated (along with his companions) to Al Madinah. He died in Madinah and is

buried there while his knowledge (the knowledge which he came with) remains. He (*sall-Allaahu alaihi wasallam*) is a Prophet who is not to be worshipped, a Messenger who is not to be belied, rather (he is to be) obeyed and followed, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, his family and all of his companions.