

Articles Of Faith

Students' Notes

Description of the six Articles of Faith in Islam (Imaan Mufasssil).

A Muslim is not a complete Muslim if there are weaknesses in his belief. Allah warns us that rejecting faith will render our deeds fruitless.¹ We must believe in whatever the prophet (s.a.w) has asked us to believe in. As such, there are six articles of faith and they are to believe in Allah, and His angels, and His books, and his Messengers, and in the Last Day² and to believe in divine destiny³ both good and evil. They are important in our lives.

The first element is Tawhid that is the Oneness of Allah. Allah is One as He says 'your god is One God'.⁴ It is the main principal ingredient of Islam. When we say that we believe in Allah, this means that we must accept his uniqueness in being, attributes, actions and worship.⁵ Allah is unique and no one is like unto Him. He is the Creator and Sustainer of all worlds.⁶ He is the Master of the Day of Judgement and He will be our Judge.⁷ He has no partner⁸ and anyone associating anyone or anything to Him is an act of Shirk⁹ and it is an unforgivable sin¹⁰ unless the person repents sincerely.¹¹ By believing in Allah, Muslims must have complete trust and hope in Allah.¹² We must submit to His will and rely on His aid.

The second article is to believe in Angels who are obedient to Allah and act as His messengers. They are creatures made out of light¹³ and possess two, three or four pairs of wings.¹⁴ Allah conveyed His revelations to the Prophet by the angel Jibril (Gabriel).¹⁵ They have no knowledge except what Allah has taught them.¹⁶ They are not endowed with free will and they act as per the will of Allah not disobeying His commands.¹⁷ They are invisible to ordinary mortals but have appeared in human form too e.g. to Ibrahim foretelling the birth of a son, to Lut (Lot) warning him of impending doom and to the prophet as Dahyah Qalbiy (ra). There are four Archangels, namely Jibril who brought revelations, Izrail who is the angel of death, Israfil who will blow the trumpet on Judgement Day and Mikail who is responsible for nourishment of the body and soul.

The third article is to believe in Books which are revealed scriptures sent as guidance from Allah to man.¹⁸ There are the Suhuf of Ibrahim¹⁹, Zaboor of Dawood²⁰, Torah of Musah²¹, Injeel of 'Isa²² and the Qur'an

1 Qur'an 5: 5

2 Qur'an 2: 177

3 Qur'an 54: 49

4 Qur'an 2: 163

5 Qur'an 1: 4

6 Qur'an 1: 1

7 Qur'an 1: 3

8 Qur'an 6: 163

9 Qur'an 6: 56

10 Qur'an 22: 31

11 Qur'an 14: 36

12 Qur'an 39: 38

13 Muslim 2996

14 Qur'an 35: 1

15 Qur'an 19: 64

¹⁶ Qur'an 2: 32

¹⁷ Qur'an 66: 6

¹⁸ Qur'an 45: 11

19 Qur'an 87: 19

20 Qur'an 4: 163

21 Qur'an 2: 87

22 Qur'an 5: 46

of the prophet (s.a.w).²³ The message is basically the same that is unity of Allah and His attributes. It enlightens on the belief in the prophets of Allah, concept of rewards and punishments for actions on the Day of Judgement, and belief in the Afterlife.²⁴ The Qur'an is the only one that remains unchanged for over 1400 years and Allah Himself has promised to safeguard it from corruption and change.²⁵ It is the last and most comprehensive book and a complete code of life sent by Allah.²⁶

The fourth article is to believe in the Messengers²⁷ sent by Allah to guide mankind through the ages. Among them the names of Adam, Ibrahim, Isma'il, Ishaq, Ya'qoub, Ayyoub, Nuh, Swalih and many others can be cited. They were all mortal and had to taste death.²⁸ However, we also believe that prophets like Idris²⁹ and 'Isa³⁰ will taste death one day. They conveyed His message in the language of the people they were sent to guide.³¹ Allah helped and strengthened them against unbelievers. Allah makes no distinction between His Messengers but they are different in ranks.³² Among them, Prophet Mohammad was the last messenger and the Seal of the prophets.³³ He was sent for all humanity, just as the Qur'an is guidance for all mankind.³⁴

The fifth article is to believe in Aakhirah. Muslims must believe in the Day of Judgement and in accountability on that day.³⁵ Everything will be clear and obvious on that day.³⁶ There will be reward for good actions such as being in Paradise³⁷ and there will be Hell for bad actions.³⁸ This life of Aakhirah will be everlasting.³⁹ Muslims believe that this life on earth is a preparation for the next.⁴⁰ It is said that whosoever believes in Allah and the last day will be granted a secure city and fruits.⁴¹

The sixth article of faith is to believe in Qadr. This means that Allah has already created what is best for mankind.⁴² He has given human beings freedom of choice and made them responsible for their actions.⁴³ Following the orders of Allah and the footsteps of the prophet will lead us to the path set by Allah. As such one's qadr or destiny will be rightly guided.⁴⁴ It is also said that if anything would precede the destiny it will be the influence of an evil eye and the remedy is to take a bath.⁴⁵ Ultimately it is Allah who determines all that happens, for He has complete authority over His creation.

23 Qur'an 39: 41

24 Qur'an 18: 2

25 Qur'an 75: 17 – 19

26 Qur'an 2: 159

27 Qur'an 3: 179

28 Qur'an 3: 144

29 Qur'an 19: 57

30 Qur'an 4: 158

31 Qur'an 10: 47

32 Qur'an 6: 165

33 Qur'an 33: 40

34 Qur'an 21: 107

35 Qur'an 22: 7, 10: 45

36 Qur'an 69: 18

37 Qur'an 2: 25

38 Qur'an 9: 95

39 Qur'an 33: 65, 72: 23

40 Qur'an 93: 4

41 Qur'an 2: 126

42 Muslim 2650

43 Abu Dawood 4695

44 Abu Dawood 4696

45 Muslim 2188

Understanding of the articles of faith.

Belief in the articles of faith has many implications. When we say that we must believe in **Allah**, this implies that we must accept His uniqueness without conditions. When Allah is said to be unique in Being this is to be understood that no one can be like Him in physical body or mental or psychological capacity. We can't think Allah as a body or mass. He is a light. When we say that He is unique in Attribute, this means that no one can possess anyone of His characteristics as we are the weak servants with lots of weaknesses. A single example of His ability to be eternal is enough to show our weaknesses. When we say that Allah is unique in Actions this means that as He is able to create anything out of nothing with the mere saying of "Be" and the thing is, we are not able to act as such. When we say that Allah is unique in worship this means that worship, 5 daily prayers and Ibaadah are only for Allah. We are the worshippers and He is the object of worship.

Belief in **angels** is to be understood that they are the creatures of Allah assigned for different tasks. They are not superior to Allah but are servants of Allah. It must be understood that they are created to praise Allah, to deliver Wahy to messengers, to help the pious people, to say Ameen on our du'a, to help in the creation and maintenance of the world, to help in the distribution of food and drink, to help Mankind in this world and the next and to be witnesses of our deeds.

Belief in **Books** is to be understood that they are the words of Allah. They are the sacred books without any mistake of the Creator of the worlds. These books are meant for our guidance and to avoid pitfalls. They are also used as tutorial on who Allah is and why were we sent on earth. They are reminders of the favours and warnings of the punishment of Allah. They are codes of conduct for the believers and means to attain piety and wisdom. They are instruments to tenderise the hearts and means to distinguish between halal and haram or between the right and the wrong path.

Belief in **Messengers** is to be understood as the chosen people of Allah, the friends of Allah, the beloveds of Allah and the vicegerents of Allah. They have been chosen not because of their deeds but because of the love of Allah for them. They have been sent to deliver the messages of Allah, to explain these messages, to purify the hearts of their followers and to be our guides. They were the magnets of blessings from Allah and shields from punishment from Allah. They are a source of knowledge from Allah and any concise and precise details on Allah could be obtained from them. They are not superior to Allah but superior to us. They are infallible people blessed by Allah with assurance of success in the next world. As their titles (messengers) suggest, they are people with messages from Allah and equipped with the ability to perform miracles.

Belief in the **Day of Judgement** implies that we must have faith that one day we will be accountable for all our deeds and Allah will be our Judge. It is also to be understood that fear of that day can bring a person to stop committing sins and lead to the right path adhering to the Islamic Law. It is also a means to have the shafa'ah of the prophet, the forgiveness of Allah and the salvation through entering Jannah. It must be understood that it is a very difficult day for those who have not prepared themselves well and for the unbelievers and at the same time a pleasant day where the blessed friends of Allah will have the so long awaited moment of contemplating Allah.

Belief in **Qadr** means to believe in what comes from Allah is always good. Whatever state we are in as a test from Allah must be accepted and taken as blessings from Allah. However, when an ill comes to us due to our disobedience and breaching of the law of Allah, then either it is a punishment from Allah or again a blessing as it is a means of purification and salvation of our sins. When we have been given the choice to choose between the right and the wrong path, it is that Allah didn't want to impose on us but He wanted to give us the time to come to Him or rather to return to Him. At the end, Allah does not want us to suffer in Qabr or in Akhirah but to have lives of pious and obedient servants. All good and bad are from Allah.