

The image shows the interior of a mosque. At the top, a minaret with intricate golden calligraphy is visible. Below it, a large, ornate mihrab (prayer niche) is set into the wall, featuring a complex pattern of blue and gold. In the foreground, a wooden pulpit (minbar) stands on a raised platform. The floor is covered with patterned carpets. The lighting is warm and focused on the central elements.

A Sermon warning against Shirk and its Causes

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All thanks are due to Allâh, Who did not create Jinn and mankind except that they should worship Him Alone. He did not grant them with His Favors except that they should praise Him. He has not revealed His Books and sent His Messengers to them except that they should know Him (by His Names and Attributes). I offer thanks and praises to Allâh coming from a slave who fears Him and hopes in Him. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allâh Alone without partners, Who is never asked about what He does while He will ask His creation about all that they do. I bear witness that Muhammad is Allâh's slave and Messenger who called his *Ummah* to *Tauhîd* (Islamic Monotheism) and commanded them to fear Allâh and avoid His Wrath. O Allâh! Bestow Your peace and blessings on Your slave and Messenger Muhammad, his progeny and his Companions who aided and helped him.

O people! Fear Allâh the Exalted and feel His Watch over you. Obey His Commandments and never commit disobedience of Him. Know that Allâh has not created you but to worship Him, and only ordered you to abide by His *Tauhîd* and Lordship.

Tauhîd asserts Allâh's Oneness in worship, and it is the religion that all

of Allâh's Messengers عليهم السلام were sent with to His slaves. Prophet Nûh (Noah) was the first of these Messengers, and Allâh sent him to his people after they fell into *Shirk* (Polytheism) and sin. They used to revere righteous people and worship them instead of Allâh, the Most Honored. The last of Allâh's Messengers was Muhammad ﷺ, the honorable Prophet who shattered the images that were made in the shapes of worshipped righteous people. By this action falsehood vanished and the truth came forth plain and clear. Allâh sent him to a people who performed acts of worship, *Hajj* and charity. They mentioned Allâh often in *Dhikr*, as well. Yet, they elevated some of the creation to the rank of intermediaries between them and He Who has perfect knowledge of the seen and the unseen. They claimed that by doing this, they sought to draw close to Allâh by the intercession of these worshipped objects:

﴿ وَيَعْبُدُونَ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ مَا لَا يَضُرُّهُمْ وَلَا يَنْفَعُهُمْ وَيَقُولُونَ هَؤُلَاءِ شَفَعَتُنَا
عِنْدَ اللَّهِ قُلْ أَتُنَبِّئُونَ اللَّهَ بِمَا لَا يَعْلَمُ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَلَا فِي الْأَرْضِ سُبْحٰنَهُ وَتَعَالَى
عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ ﴾

“And they worship besides Allâh things that harm them not, nor profit them, and they say: ‘These are our intercessors with Allâh.’ Say: ‘Do you inform Allâh of that which He knows not in the heavens and on the earth?’ Glorified and Exalted is He above all that which they associate as partners (with Him)!”
(10:18)

Hence, Allâh sent Muhammad ﷺ, to renew the aspects of the religion of their father, Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام, which had faded away. He was sent to assure them that worshipping and invoking are the exclusive rights of Allâh over all slaves. No part of worship is ever directed a prophet, angel or any other among the creation.

Therefore, O slaves of Allâh, fear Allâh and implement your faith by adhering to the implications of *Lâ ilâha illallâh*, before a Day when one will be confronted with all that he did. Verily, on that Day none will benefit any other, except by Allâh's permission and pleasure.

﴿ وَأَنَّ الْمَسَاجِدَ لِلَّهِ فَلَا تَدْعُوا مَعَ اللَّهِ أَحَدًا ۝ وَأَنْتُمْ لِمَا قَامَ عَبْدُ اللَّهِ يَدْعُوهُ كَادُوا يَكُونُونَ عَلَيْهِ
 لِبَدًا ۝ قُلْ إِنَّمَا أَدْعُوا رَبِّي وَلَا أُشْرِكُ بِهِ أَحَدًا ۝ قُلْ إِنِّي لَا أَمْلِكُ لَكُمْ ضَرًّا وَلَا رَشَدًا ۝ قُلْ
 إِنِّي لَنْ يُجِيرَنِي مِنَ اللَّهِ أَحَدٌ وَلَنْ أَجِدَ مِنْ دُونِهِ مُلْتَحَدًا ۝ إِلَّا بَلَاغًا مِنَ اللَّهِ وَرِسَالَاتِهِ ۚ وَمَنْ يَعْصِ
 اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَإِنَّ لَهُ نَارَ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدًا فِيهَا أَبَدًا ۝﴾

“And the mosques are for Allâh (Alone), so invoke not anyone along with Allâh. And when the slave of Allâh (Muhammad ﷺ) stood up invoking Him (his Lord — Allâh) in prayer they (the jinn) just made round him a dense crowd as if sticking one over the other (in order to listen to the Prophet’s recitation). Say (O Muhammad ﷺ): ‘I invoke only my Lord (Allâh Alone), and I associate none as partners along with Him.’ Say: “It is not in my power to cause you harm, or to bring you to the Right Path.” Say (O Muhammad ﷺ): ‘None can protect me from Allâh’s punishment (if I were to disobey Him), nor can I find refuge except in Him. (Mine is) but conveyance (of the truth) from Allâh and His Messages (of Islâmic Monotheism), and whosoever disobeys Allâh and His Messenger, then verily, for him is the fire of Hell, he shall dwell therein forever.’ (72:23)

May Allâh direct us and you to the blessings of the Glorious Qur’ân and benefit us and you in whatever is in it of the *Âyat* and Wise *Dhikr*. I say this and ask Allâh the Great, Most Honored for forgiveness for me, you and all Muslims for every sin, so invoke Him for forgiveness, for He is the Most Forgiving, Most Merciful.¹

¹ *Al-Khutab Al-Minbariyah*, One of the sermon of Shaikh Al-Islam Muhammad bin Abdul Wahhâb, p. 56

professed.

Lâ ilâha illallâh asserts that none has the right to be worshipped except Allâh and that all those besides Him that are being worshipped are false deities:

﴿ ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْحَقُّ وَأَنَّ مَا يَدْعُونَ مِن دُونِهِ الْبَطْلُ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْكَبِيرُ ﴾

“That is because Allâh, He is the Truth, and that which they invoke besides Him is *Al-Bâtil* (falsehood, Satan and all other false deities); and that Allâh, He is the Most High, the Most Great.” (31:30)

Testifying that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allâh requires associating none with Allâh in worship. Declaring this Testimonial dictates disowning all worshipped objects besides Allâh and dedicating all acts of worship to Him Alone, consequently, adhering by all that He has ordained and abandoning all that He has forbidden. This is why when the Prophet ﷺ said to the pagans, “Say: *Lâ ilâha illallâh*,” they understood that this Testimonial required them to worship Allâh Alone and abandon worshipping the idols. They refused to declare the *Shahadah* and rejected it outright, saying:

﴿ أَجَعَلَ الْآلِهَةَ إِلَهًا وَاحِدًا إِنَّ هَذَا لَشَيْءٌ عَجَابٌ ۝ وَأَنْطَلَقَ الْمَلَأُ مِنْهُمْ أَنِ امْشُوا وَاصْبِرُوا عَلَىٰ

ءِ الْهَيْكَلِ ۚ إِنَّ هَذَا لَشَيْءٌ يُرَادُ ۝ مَا سَمِعْنَا بِهَذَا فِي الْمِلَّةِ الْآخِرَةِ إِنْ هَذَا إِلَّا خُلُقٌ

“Has he made the *âlihah* (gods) (all) into One *Ilâh* (God — Allâh). Verily, this is a curious thing!” And the leaders among them went about (saying): “Go on, and remain constant to your *âlihah* (gods)! Verily, this is a thing designed (against you)! We have not heard (the like) of this in the religion of these later days (i.e., Christianity). This is nothing but an invention!.” (38:5-7)

This is the meaning of *Lâ ilâha illallâh*. Muhammad ﷺ made the gods only one God, with the implication being abandoning worshipping all deities except Allâh. The *Mushriks* (Arab pagans) understood this meaning, for they were eloquent Arabs. However, those who revere graves in the present time do not understand the true essence of *Lâ ilâha illallâh*, and this is why they worship the dead. Hence, the

Mushrikun of old were more knowledgeable than they in the true meaning of *Lâ ilâha illallâh* and its indications. These *Quburiyyun* (Muslims who worship graves) say *Dhikr Lâ ilâha illallâh*, yet invoke Ali, ‘Husain or Abdul Qadir Al-Jilani when distressed. They call on the dead and supplicate to them to send them aid and relief from disasters. They circumambulate around their graves and sacrifice in their names. What does *Lâ ilâha illallâh* mean to these people and what benefit does pronouncing it bring them? Verily, they are a people who understand not.

﴿ نَسُوا اللَّهَ فَنَسِيَهُمْ ﴾

“They have forgotten Allâh, so He has forgotten them.” (9:67)

And:

﴿ زُيِّنَ لَهُمْ سُوءُ أَعْمَالِهِمْ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْكَافِرِينَ ﴾

“The evil of their deeds is made fair-seeming to them. And Allâh guides not the people who disbelieve.” (9:37)

O, slaves of Allâh! *Lâ ilâha illallâh* requires establishing the prayer perfectly and on time, for it is the second pillar of Islam after the Two Testimonials. Allâh the Exalted said:

﴿ فَإِنْ تَابُوا وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَوْا الزَّكَاةَ فَإِخْوَانُكُمْ فِي الدِّينِ ﴾

“But if they repent [by rejecting *Shirk* (polytheism) and accept Islamic Monotheism], perform *As-Salât* (*Iqâmat-as-Salât*) and give *Zakât*, then they are your brethren in religion.”(9:11)

Also, among the implications of *Lâ ilâha illallâh* is that Muslims are required to pay *Zakât*, fast (the lunar month of) *Ramadhân*, perform *Hajj* to the House (the Ka‘bah at Makkah) for those who can afford the journey, fulfill the obligations and refrain from the prohibitions. For instance, Abu Bakr As-Siddiq رضى الله عنه and the Companions fought those who refused to pay the *Zakât*, even though these rebels used to say *Lâ ilâha illallâh*. The Companions declared that paying the *Zakât* is among the requirements of *Lâ ilâha illallâh*. It was once said to Al-Hasan Al-Basri, “Some people say that those who proclaim *Lâ ilâha*

illallâh shall enter Paradise.” He said, “Yes, those who proclaim it and fulfill its implications and requirements, then saying *Lâ ilâha illallâh* shall enter them into Paradise.”

Also, Wahb bin Munbih was asked:

“Is not *Lâ ilâha illallâh* the key to Paradise?” He said, “Yes. However, every key has teeth, and if you use a key that has teeth it will open for you, otherwise it will not open.””

O Allâh’s slaves! Just as *Shirk* contradicts and annuls *Lâ ilâha illallâh*, also all other sins less than *Shirk* decrease from its essence and rewards according to the sin committed by the slave. Therefore, the Muslim is required to declare that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allâh, acquire knowledge in this Testimonial’s implications and abide by it inwardly and outwardly. Allâh said:

﴿وَلَا يَمْلِكُ الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِهِ لَشَفَعَةَ إِلَّا مَنْ شَهِدَ بِالْحَقِّ وَهُمْ يَعْلَمُونَ﴾

“And those whom they invoke instead of Him have no power of intercession — except for those who bear witness to the truth knowingly, and they know.”(43:86)

Bear witness to the truth knowingly, means, “They declared that none has the right to be worshipped except Allâh.” To continue, “...and they know” means, “Their hearts know the truth of the Testimonial that their tongues have uttered.” Therefore, fear Allâh, O Allâh’s slaves. Know the true meaning of this Testimonial and abide by it. It is not sufficient to merely declare the *Shahadah* without knowing its meaning and abiding by its implications:

﴿وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ مِنْ رَسُولٍ إِلَّا نُوْحِيَ إِلَيْهِ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاعْبُدُونِ﴾

“And We did not send any Messenger before you (O Muhammad ﷺ) but We revealed to him (saying): *Lâ ilâha illa Ana* [none has the right to be worshipped but I (Allâh)], so worship Me (Alone and none else).”(21:25)

May Allâh direct us and you to the blessings of the Glorious Qur’ân and benefit us and you in whatever is in it of the *Âyat* and Wise *Dhikr*.