



**The Meaning of La ilaha illallah
and its Requirements**

The Meaning of *Lâ ilâha illallâh* and its Requirements

All the praises and thanks be to Allâh, Who has not begotten a son (or offspring), and Who has no partner in His Dominion. He does not have a *Walî* (helper, protector or supporter) against lowliness. I magnify Him with all magnificence [*Allâhu-Akbar* (Allâh is the Most Great)]. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allâh Alone without partners, and Allâh is glorified and praised from what the unjust infidels say about Him. I bear witness that Muhammad is Allâh's slave and Messenger, whom Allâh has sent just before the Last Hour as the Bringer of glad tidings, a Warner, a Caller to Allâh by His permission and a light of guidance. May Allâh's peace and blessings be on Muhammad, his progeny, his Companions and all those who follow and obey him until the Day of Resurrection.

O people, fear Allâh and obey Him. O slaves of Allâh! The first pillar in Islam is *Ash-Shahadatain* (the Two Testimonials): *Lâ ilâha illallâh, Muhammadun Rasulullah* (there is no deity worthy of worship except Allâh and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allâh). This is the first and most important pillar on which the rest of Islam's pillars are established and from which all of the religion's rulings derived. If this base is firm and well established, the rest of the actions will be set aright and accepted by Allâh, thus earning one benefit and rewards. If this base is not established on a firm ground, all good deeds will be ruined and become like scattered, floating particles of dust, or like a mirage in a desert that the thirsty thinks is water until he comes up to it, and he finds it to be nothing. Or it is like ashes scattered on a stormy day. In this case one's good deeds will become a burden in this life and a cause for sorrow and grief on the Day of Resurrection.

O, slaves of Allâh! The Two Testimonials have meaning and implications; those who declare them are required to acquire knowledge in their meanings and implications and to adhere by them. Otherwise, merely pronouncing the *Shahadatain* will not avail the

I say this and ask Allâh the Great, and the 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-Minbariyyah*, by Shaikh Salih Al-Fozan, vol. 2, p. 7