



**A Sermon by the Fifth Rightly Guided Caliph,  
'Umar bin Abdul Aziz**

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In the first sermon 'Umar bin Abdul Aziz delivered after becoming a Caliph, he praised Allâh and invoked Him for peace and blessings upon His Messenger ﷺ. Then he said:

“O people! Correct your inner selves and your outer selves will be corrected, as well. Set aright the affairs of your Hereafter and your life will be set aright for you. Verily, someone who does not have any living father between him and Adam is indeed close to death!”

### **The Virtue of the Statement there is *Lâ ilâha illallâh* (No deity is worthy of worship except Allâh)**

All praise is due to Allâh, Who opened the doors of knowledge to those who strived in His worship by granting them the key that is *Lâ ilâha illallâh* (there is no deity worthy of worship except Allâh). He resurrected the hearts of the knowledgeable worshippers and filled the cups of those who always remember Him from the fountain of *Lâ ilâha illallâh*. He perfected the creation, brought them into existence and sealed this perfection with *Lâ ilâha illallâh*. He Who created the fetus from a worthless fluid (semen) so that mankind may worship Him with *Lâ ilâha illallâh*. He has sent the Messengers to deliver the good news of this Word *Lâ ilâha illallâh* and warn against whatever contradicts it; they called all mankind to adhere to its implications. *Lâ ilâha illallâh* is the pillar of the religion and the Thick Rope of Allâh; those who adhere to *Lâ ilâha illallâh* will never earn failure. Verily, the minds of the ignorant ones were led astray and the hearts of the stubborn infidels have earned misguidance on account of their taking two gods, even after the full moon of *Lâ ilâha illallâh* has risen.

I thank and praise Allâh for making us among the people of *Lâ ilâha illallâh* and I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allâh Alone Who has no partners. I bear witness that

Muhammad is Allâh's slave and Messenger through whom Allâh has resurrected what faded away of the aspects of *Lâ ilâha illallâh*. Yet, Allâh said to His Prophet ﷺ:

﴿فَاعْلَمْ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ﴾

“So know (O Muhammad ﷺ) that *Lâ ilâha illallâh* (none has the right to be worshipped but Allâh).”(47:19)

Muhammad ﷺ embraced this word and declared it, all the while using it as the basis of giving loyalty or showing enmity. He said in an authentic *Hadith*:

«أُمِرْتُ أَنْ أُقَاتِلَ النَّاسَ حَتَّى يَقُولُوا لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ، فَإِذَا قَالُوهَا عَصَمُوا مِنِّي دِمَاءَهُمْ وَأَمْوَالَهُمْ إِلَّا بِحَقِّ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ».

“I have been ordered to fight the people till they say: ‘None has the right to be worshipped but Allâh.’ And if they say so, then their blood and property will be sacred to me, except for the right of *Lâ ilâha illallâh* (such as executing the murderer, stoning the adulterer, and so forth).”

The Prophet ﷺ called to Allâh in secret and public, by night and by day, until the unjust veil that shielded *Lâ ilâha illallâh* was removed. O Allâh! Send Your best peace and blessings on Your slave and Messenger, Muhammad ﷺ, and on his progeny and Companions who protected *Lâ ilâha illallâh* with their own lives.

“O people! Fear Allâh the Exalted and renew your faith by night and by day by contemplating the indications of *Lâ ilâha illallâh*. O you who have wisdom and fruitful efforts, seek your means of success that is only granted to the people of *Lâ ilâha illallâh*. Surely, *Lâ ilâha illallâh* is the Word of Islam and the key to the Dwelling of Peace (Paradise). Verily, the heavens and earth would never have remained, nor would performing the necessary and recommended *Sunnah* acts avail, nor would anyone acquire safety on the Day of Gathering except by *Lâ ilâha illallâh*. The swords of *Jihâd* would not be held, nor the

Messengers be sent to the slaves, except to teach them the meaning and practices of *Lâ ilâha illallâh*. This is when humankind divided into two parts and went two separate ways: a group of them adhered to *Lâ ilâha illallâh* and the other group strayed away from it. They refused it because they knew that the religion of their ancestors would be annulled if they embraced *Lâ ilâha illallâh*. All praise is due to He Who made His slaves different from each other with His Wisdom and Will. Indeed, this is one of the proofs to *Lâ ilâha illallâh*. Tuba (a tree in Paradise) is for those who know the meaning of this Testimonial, agree with it and practice its implication inwardly and outwardly. By doing so, they would be realizing and tasting the true essence of *Lâ ilâha illallâh*. Verily, woe to those who were driven by the devil to fall into polytheism. They became filled to the top with associating others with Allâh in worship and consequently refused with arrogance to submit to *Lâ ilâha illallâh*. Have you not heard Allâh's Statement:

﴿وَلَا يَمْلِكُ الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِهِ الشَّفَعَةَ 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 (i.e., believed in the Oneness of Allâh, and obeyed His Orders), and they know (the facts about the Oneness of Allâh).” (43:86)

The true essence of *Lâ ilâha illallâh* entails directing all acts of worship, intentions and thoughts to Allâh Alone rather than any other worshipped object. All other objects of worship annulled and refuted by *Lâ ilâha illallâh*. This is what is meant by disbelieving in *Taghut* and believing in Allâh Alone, and this is how the heart is purified of anything that is not for Allâh Alone, and cleansed from the intention to commit whatever Allâh has prohibited or dislike for whatever He has commanded. This is the true essence of *Lâ ilâha illallâh*, contrary to the practice of those who utter this testimonial with their words, but contradict it with their actions. These people, do not benefit from

saying *Lâ ilâha illallâh*.

Directing any act of worship to other than Allâh and associating any among the creation with Him in worship are acts of disbelief, even if one pronounced *Lâ ilâha illallâh* a thousand times with his tongue. 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. For those who proclaim this word and fulfill its implications and requirements, then saying *Lâ ilâha illallâh* shall enter them into Paradise.”

In addition, Wahb bin Munbih asked:

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

Therefore, these types of people will not benefit from proclaiming *Lâ ilâha illallâh* because they do not say it from their hearts. We advise you, O Muslims, to never think that *Shirk* (Polytheism, which contradicts *Lâ ilâha illallâh*) is far away from you, because there are tremendous hindrances and lures that seek to corrupt the sincerity of your uttering *Lâ ilâha illallâh*.

Where are those who associate none with Allâh regards to love, fear, hope and worship? Where are those who direct their humbleness, submissiveness, reverence, intention and reliance to Allâh Alone, all the while trusting in Him for each and every thing? All these qualities are parts of the meaning of *Lâ ilâha illallâh*. O slaves of Allâh, rush to the forgiveness of your Lord and a paradise as wide as the heavens and earth prepared for the *Muttaqin* (the pious). They are those who fulfill the duties and responsibilities of *Lâ ilâha illallâh*. They are those, who have not placed any other *ilâh* (god) along with Allâh. Verily, I am a plain warner to you from Him. Hold on to the pillars of *Lâ ilâha illallâh*. Surely, those who reject what *Lâ ilâha illallâh* rejects, assert what it asserts and offer their loyalty or enmity on its account, then this word will elevate them to the highest grades the grades of *Lâ ilâha illallâh*:

﴿ يَوْمَ يَقُومُ الرُّوحُ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ صَفًّا لَا يَتَكَلَّمُونَ إِلَّا مَنْ أَذِنَ لَهُ الرَّحْمَنُ وَقَالَ صَوَابًا ﴾

“The Day that *Ar-Rûh* [Jibrîl (Gabriel) or another angel] and the angels will stand forth in rows, they will not speak except him whom the Most Gracious (Allâh) allows, and he will speak what is right.” (78:38)

May Allâh direct us all to the blessings of the Noble Qur'ân and benefit us in whatever is in it of the *Âyât* and Wise *Dhikr*. I say this and ask Allâh the Great, and the Most Honored for forgiveness for me, you and all Muslims for every sin. Seek His forgiveness, for He is the Most Forgiving, Most Merciful.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> رحمه الله. One the sermon of Shikh Al-Islam Muhammad bin Abdul Wahhât  
*Al-Khutab Al-Minbariyyah*, p. 36