

Response to the One Who Says:

"I Don't Need to Learn 'Aqidah'"

Salih Fawzan

There are some people here, who keep away from (attending) lessons on 'aqidah (creed/beliefs), and they say, "We are Muslims, we are not unbelievers or idol-worshippers such that we have to learn 'aqidah or attend lectures about it."

Teaching the Muslims (the correct) 'aqidah does not mean that we have judged them to be unbelievers. Rather, we teach the Muslims about 'aqidah in order for them to know about it thoroughly, and know what matters nullify it and what matters are contrary to it. Huzaifah Ibnul-Yaman, one of the distinguished Companions - *radiyAllahu 'anhu* (may Allah be pleased with him)- said, "People used to ask the Messenger about the good, but I used to ask him about the evil, for fear of falling into it." (Bukhari, Muslim)

Likewise 'Umar Ibnul-Khattab *radiyAllahu 'anhu* said, "Soon the bonds of Islam will be loosened bit by bit, because people will enter into Islam but will be unaware of *Jahiliyah* (ignorant practices that Islam opposes)." (*Majmu' Al-Fatawa*)

Thus, when we teach 'aqidah, this does not imply that we have judged those whom we are teaching to be non-Muslims. Rather, what it means is that we desire that they should be thoroughly aware of the correct Islamic 'aqidah; so as to cling to it, and to be aware of what opposes it; so as to keep far away from it. Allah - the Most High-- said, whilst addressing His Prophet *Sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam* (peace and blessing be upon him), "So have knowledge about *Laa*

ilaaha illAllah (have knowledge that none has the right to be worshipped except Allah), and seek forgiveness for your sins, and for the believing men and women." (translated from Allah's Words in Al-Quran surah Muhammad: 19)

So it is essential that a person learns and that he does not content himself with merely saying, "I am a Muslim." Yes indeed, you are a Muslim - and all praise is for Allah!

However, if one of you were asked as to what Islam means, or you were asked to explain what Islam is, then many of you

would not be able to correctly explain this. If one of you were to be asked to explain what are those factors which nullify Islam, then many of you would not be able to explain this.

Thus, if a person is ignorant (of such fundamentals), it is possible that he may fall into falsehood without realising it.

If one of you were asked to explain the pillars of Islam or *iman* (faith) that the Messenger of Allah explained and taught, we would find that most people would be unable to do so.

So how is it that a person (suffices with) saying, "I am a Muslim," yet does not know these (basic) matters!

Unfortunately, many of the *du'at*



AFP

two people: **first**, an ignorant person - and the ignorant person's [view] is not to be given any weight; or **second**, a bigoted deviant - one who desires to avert people from the 'aqidah of pure *Tauhid*, and who wishes to conceal from the people his own false beliefs, and those other deviant beliefs that are (falsely) ascribed to Islam. And this is possibly the Ease of many of those who abstain from learning about *Tauhid*. Allah - the Most High - said, "And it is not proper for all the Believers to go out together and fight. From every troop of them only a party of them should go forth, so that those who remain behind may gain understanding of the Religion so that they may (instruct

callers to Islam) are themselves unaware of (basic matters such as) what are the conditions for Prayer, or unaware of the rules and regulations concerning *wudu'* (ablution) and those matters which invalidate *wudu'*.

Some of them do not even know what matters form the *arkan* (pillars) of the Prayer, or form its *wajibat* (obligations), or those matters which invalidate the Prayer. So what Islam are they calling to! Islam is not merely a call, rather it is a reality to be learnt and practiced.

So it is essential to acquire sound knowledge and understanding of the Religion.

This is because a person who does not have sound knowledge,

may fall into dangers without even realising it; just like a person who walks down a path, but is ignorant of the fact that along this path there is a ditch, or a hole, or even an ambush. Yet (due to his ignorance) he ends up falling into the hole, or the ambush, without even realising it.

Thus it is essential to learn about *Tauhid*, since it is *Tauhid* that is the basic foundation (of both the Religion and the correct Islamic 'aqidah) which covers its necessities, as well as its limits, conditions, fundamentals, clear proofs, fruits and consequences, and those matters which increase and strengthen it, and those that decrease and weaken it.

Indeed, no one abstains from learning about *Tauhid* except one of

and) warn their people when they return to them, in order that they may beware." (surah At-Taubah: 122)

Also, the Messenger of Allah said, "Whoever Allah desires to show goodness to, He gives him the understanding of the Religion." (Al-Bukhari)

The meaning of this hadith is that whenever Allah does not want to show goodness to a person, He does not give him the understanding of the Religion. So the one who says, "I do not need to learn 'aqidah."

It is as if he is saying, "I do not need to gain understanding of the Religion!" And this is said by either an ignorant person, or one who is misguided. **Al-Istiqamah**

Islamia Quiz

1. Who suggested that Khalifah Abu Bakr As-Sidq start compiling the written Quranic text?
2. Name ten Companions of the Messenger of Allah that he guaranteed with *Jannah* (Paradise) in a hadith.

1. 'Umar ibn Khattab
2. Abu Bakr As-Sidq, 'Umar ibn Khattab, 'Uthman ibn Affan, 'Ali ibn Abi Talib, Abu 'Ubadah ibn Al-Jarrah, Saad ibn Abi Waqqas, Abdurrahman ibn Auf, Talhah ibn Ubaidillah, Zubair ibn Awwam, Sa'id ibn Zaid

ANSWERS

Books

Mecca Medina : *The Yildiz Albums of Sultan Abdulhamid II (Mehmet Bahadir Dorduncu)*. The most exquisite memories of the Ottoman history are brought back to life with an album of photographs from the Yildiz Collection. In the 1880s upon an order of Sultan Abdulhamid II, Mekah and Madinah, the two sanctuaries of Islam, were photographed and catalogued, together with thousands of other frames that portrayed the Ottoman lands. There are over 80 photographs in the album showing us what these holy cities looked like in the 19th century and what they have lost over the course of



time. Includes pictures of the Ka'bah and the Grand Masjid in Mekah, the Prophet's Masjid in Madinah, cemeteries of Jannat al-Mualla and Jannat al-Baqi, tombs of Khadijah and Hamzah, Ajjad fortress and Ottoman barracks, Mina, Mount Arafat, the Beirut Port and the cities of Lebanon.



The *Swirling Hijaab* is a lyrical book about the feelings a little Muslim girl has for her headscarf, her Hijab. Author Na'ima

bint Robert skillfully weaves a beautiful tale that elicits pride in the Islamic attire and portrays the beauty and diversity of Muslim women. With a swirl of the hijab a little girl is at once a brave warrior queen, an adventurous nomad in the desert, a beautiful bride, inside a Bedouin tent.