

Laa Ilaaha Illallaah

A Muslim Child's Way of Life



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Way of Life**

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*In the Name of Allāh, the Most Gracious,
the Most Merciful.*

Publisher's Note

We are publishing this book with two purposes in mind. One is to signify the meanings of the statement of Faith, which is *Laa ilaaha illallaah*; and what position it should hold in our lives. The conditions and the requirements of the statement of Faith are clearly described for our children in such a style that they will grasp it without any difficulty.

All the Articles of Faith have been explained to them in a very easy manner. In fact every child gets the clear idea of all the requirements of Faith by reading this book, and this was one aim which has been achieved in a perfect manner.

The second aim was to promote healthy extracurricular activities in the school children. Various types of debates, writing competitions and sports produce sound effects both mentally and physically upon the children. They become fluent in expressing themselves

through words whether it is by speaking or by writing. Such competitions increase the thinking capabilities of the children, making them creative and expressive.

In schools, the principals and the concerned teachers should organize such competitions on a regular basis to keep the children busy with healthy activities.

Abdul Malik Mujahid

General Manager, Darussalam

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The Ministry of Education organized a competition for the best research paper on one of the five pillars of Islam and allocated valuable prizes for the first five winners. The terms and conditions of the competition included the following:

1. The paper should not exceed ten pages.
2. The competitor should not be over fifteen years of age.
3. The paper should be submitted within two weeks.
4. The same paper can be shared by more than one competitor.

The Ministry of Education stated in a leaflet that a delegate of the Ministry was going to distribute the prizes in person to the winners.

The news of the competition and the valuable prizes had a deep impact on the

students as well as their parents. All the students wanted to win a prize. The teachers also wanted their own students to stand a chance of winning one of those valuable prizes.

All the schools that participated in the competition turned into what looked like a beehive as a result of the students' hectic movements to find the right books of reference. Some students were looking in books of *Fiqh* to write on prayer, some were reading about pilgrimage, others were concerned with *Zakaah*, others were thinking about writing on fasting, and others chose to write on the Statement of Faith: *Laa ilaaha illallaah*.

Many students felt that the papers they had produced were of a poor quality, so they disappointedly tore them up and gave up the idea of taking part in the competition. Some students, however, sought advice from their parents and consulted their teachers for help. Those students who had written papers were

both nervous and excited as the deadline approached. They all managed to meet the deadline after all.

The big day of announcing the results and distributing the prizes came after a long wait. The students who had taken part in the competition went early to the school to find out about the results. Some of them were not as concerned with the prize itself as they were with success. Success has a special taste and brings with it joy and happiness. Everyone was hoping to win. Teachers were hoping that their own students would win the prize. Principals were hoping that their schools would win. Parents were even more concerned about their children winning the prize.

The students rushed to school to find out whether or not they would spot their names on the notice board in the school yard.

The Ministry of Education had already announced that Sa'eed bin Jubair School

was the school which had won the first prize, and the paper that won the prize was written by a fourteen-year-old student named 'Abdur-Rahmān. The title of the paper was '*Laa ilaaha illallaah: A Muslim Child's Way of Life.*' 'Abdur-Rahmān discussed in this paper the meaning of *Laa ilaaha illallaah*, its status, its conditions, its virtues and its requirements.

Like the rest of the students who were waiting for the big day to come, 'Abdur-Rahmaan left home early that day. He was confident of winning the first prize. He prayed all the way to school, and when he got there, he found a big surprise awaiting him. He was indeed the first prize winner! His eyes lit up with joy, and he fell prostrate on the floor next to the headmaster's office, offering thanks to Allāh for the major achievement he had made. Mr. Khaalid, the principal of the school, was elated with joy. He walked towards him and

congratulated him on this achievement.

In the morning assembly that day, it was Mr. Khaalid who addressed the students and the faculty. He opened his speech by giving praises to Allāh and invoking Allāh's blessings upon His Messenger. Then he thanked 'Abdur-Rahmaan for the efforts he had made to win the first prize. He also considered this success a success not for one person, but for the whole school community. Before he concluded his speech, he requested 'Abdur-Rahmaan to read his paper before his teachers and fellow students.

'Abdur-Rahmaan came forward, his paper in his right hand, and stood on a platform which was prepared for the occasion. Then he began reading his paper.

In the Name of Allāh, the Most Gracious,
the Most Merciful.

All praise is due to Allāh, and peace and blessings be upon His Last Messenger. I bear witness that there is no one worthy of worship' except Allāh, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger.

The present paper is primarily concerned with the meaning of *Laa ilaaha illallaah*, the noble status it occupies in Islam, its conditions, virtues and requirements. Allāh the Almighty says:

﴿فَاعْلَمْ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ﴾

“So know that *Laa ilaaha illallaah* (None has the right to be worshipped but Allāh).” (47:19)

Also, the Prophet ﷺ said:

«مَنْ قَالَ: لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُخْلِصًا مِنْ قَلْبِهِ
دَخَلَ الْجَنَّةَ»

“Whoever said: *Laa ilaaha illallaah* (none has the right to be worshipped but Allāh) with sincerity from his heart will enter Paradise.”

1. The meanings of *Laa ilaaha illallaah*

This statement simply means that none deserves to be worshipped except Allāh, for He is the Creator, the Sustainer, the Provider, the One Who causes death and the One Who gives life.

All acts of worship should be directed solely to Him alone. Any act of worship which is not directed to Him will be invalid and will not be accepted. It will instead bring ruin and punishment on him on the Day of Judgement if he does not repent from it.

Allāh is the true God to Whom we should turn our hearts with total love, fear and hope. We should have total reliance upon Him, seeking His help and refuge. Our hearts should turn to no one but to their Creator, nor should they display

love for other than Him or fear or hope for other than His Mercy.

Laa ilaaha illallaah negates all deities, for Allāh alone is the only true God, Who alone deserves to be worshipped. He is the Lord of the worlds, the Ever Living, the One Who sustains and protects all that exists. He is the Creator and the Sustainer. To Him belongs the kingdom of the heavens and the earth. It is He Who gives life and causes death, and He has power over all things. He rose over the Throne in a manner that suits His Majesty. He is over His Throne above the seventh heaven. He is with us by His Knowledge only, not by His Personal Self. It is not true that He is present everywhere, as some people mistakenly say.

Laa ilaaha illallaah confirms Godship only for Allāh, Who has the best of Names and the most perfect Attributes.

2. The high status of *Laa ilaaha illallaah*:

Laa ilaaha illallaah occupies a high position because it is the essence of

Islam and the basis of the belief in *Tawheed*, or Islamic monotheism. Indeed, it is the key to Paradise. It is because of this statement that Allāh created Paradise and Hell and divided people into believers and disbelievers. It is also because of this statement that He legislated *Jihaad*, or fighting in the way of Allāh. It is also for this statement that we will receive reward or punishment, and questioning and judgement will be administered on the Day of Judgement concerning it.

Everyone of us will be questioned about three things: "Who is your Lord, what was your religion, and who was your Prophet that you followed?" The answer to the first question can be realized through the statement of faith, by understanding its meaning, sincerely believing in what it negates and confirms, acting upon its commands and meeting its conditions and requirements.

This great statement, *Laa ilaaha*

illallaah, is the decisive criterion between Islam and disbelief. It is the most trustworthy handhold that never breaks, and whoever grasps it will attain success in this life and eternal happiness in the Hereafter. It is the Word of Piety and the Word that Ibraahim عليه السلام left

﴿بَاقِيَةً فِي عَقْبِهِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ﴾

“...to endure among his offspring, that they may turn back (to Allāh).”
(43:28)

Indeed, it is the very statement which Allāh Himself declares. The angels and the scholars among the jinn and humankind also declare this statement. The Qur’ān says:

﴿شَهِدَ اللَّهُ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ وَأُولُوا
الْعِلْمِ قَابِلًا بِالْقِسْطِ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ
الْحَكِيمُ﴾

“Allāh bears witness that *Laa ilaaha illa Huwa* (none has the right to be

worshipped but Him), and the angels, and those having knowledge (also give this witness); (He always) maintains His creation in justice. *Laa ilaaha illa Huwa* (none has the right to be worshipped but Him), the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.” (3:18)

Laa ilaaha illallaah is all-inclusive and encompasses the entire religion. It is the basis upon which all religious rites are founded and the source from which they emanate. Therefore, any act of worship that is not based upon this foundation is deemed invalid and will not be accepted. Those who perform prayer, fast, perform pilgrimage or do acts of good but at the same time associate others with Allāh in worship, will have their acts rejected.

3. The conditions of *Laa ilaaha illallaah*

The statement *Laa ilaaha illallaah* has seven conditions:

1. Knowledge that negates ignorance:
One should know what it negates

and what it confirms, as well as avoid worshipping anyone or anything besides Allāh. Whoever does not know its meaning will not be able to act in accordance with its obligations. Furthermore, it will not benefit the one who worships someone or something besides Allāh.

2. Certainty that negates doubt: The person who utters this statement should believe with certainty in all the matters related to it, such as Paradise and Hell and all matters of the Unseen World. Whoever doubts the existence of such matters will certainly be deprived of its benefits.
3. Sincerity that negates hypocrisy: Whoever utters this statement without sincerely believing in it for the sake of Allāh only, might get worldly benefits only. His blood and property may be protected, but he will definitely be in the depths of Hell-fire with the hypocrites who

only give lip service to this statement. Such people in fact show hatred towards the religion of Islam and its staunch followers.

4. Love for this statement and all that it calls to, as well as love for those who act upon its commands. One must also show hatred towards those who reject it and contradict its obligations.
5. Acceptance as opposed to rejection: The Muslim youth must accept any command or prohibition which emanates from this statement. A Muslim must do his best to act upon all commands and avoid all prohibitions, no matter how small they might seem to him or her.
6. Obedience as opposed to rebellion: A Muslim youth must act upon all the commands of Islam. If, in a moment of carelessness, he has been tempted by Satan not to abide by a certain rule, he must turn to his Lord in

repentance without hesitation or delay.

7. Truthfulness, which opposes lying: A Muslim must be truthful regarding his belief in this statement. The person who says this statement but does not truly believe in it, and he only lies in saying it for the sake of some worldly gains will not be considered Muslim and none of his work will be accepted.

The most important of all these conditions is to reject *At-Taaghoot*, which is all that is worshipped besides Allāh. The Qur'ān says:

﴿فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ وَيُؤْمِنْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدِ
 اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ لَا انفِصَامَ لَهَا﴾

“Whoever disbelieves in *At-Taaghoot* (false deities and all that is worshipped besides Allāh) and believes in Allāh, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break.” (2:256)

The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«مَنْ قَالَ: لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ، فَقَدْ عَصَمَ مِنِّي
نَفْسَهُ وَمَالَهُ إِلَّا بِحَقِّهِ، وَحِسَابُهُ عَلَى اللَّهِ»

“Whoever says *Laa ilaaha illallaah* and disbelieves in whatever is worshipped besides Allāh, will have his blood and property protected, and his judgement will be with Allāh, the Mighty and Majestic.”

These texts clearly show that what is meant by saying ‘*Laa ilaaha illallaah*’ is to demonstrate one’s dedication to worshipping none but Allāh. Those who only pay lip service to it will not get any benefit whatsoever from doing so.

4. How can Muslim children live according to *Laa ilaaha illallaah*?

A Muslim youth must first believe that good and harm comes from Allāh alone and not from human beings, no matter who they may be. Indeed, human beings are only tools that Allāh uses to execute

His Decree. He must also believe that if all of mankind join forces in order to do him good, this will never come to pass unless Allāh wills it. He must also believe that if they join forces to do him harm, this harm will not afflict him unless Allāh wills it. He must also believe that whatever happened to him would have never missed him, and whatever did not happen to him would have never happened to him.

A Muslim must also believe that his life is in Allāh's Hands alone, and that death can overcome him only by Allāh's leave. He must believe that his life cannot be prolonged as a result of cowardice, laziness, fear, sleep and weakness. Also, his life will not be shortened as a result of displaying courage and bravery, such as fighting on the battlefield for the sake of Allāh and defending Islam and Muslims.

A Muslim youth must also purify his heart and cleanse it of all filth that may otherwise smear and pollute its purity.

Therefore, he should not show love for false deities and those who worship them. He should show love only for Allāh, His Messenger ﷺ and the pious and obedient among Allāh's servants. He should put his trust in Allāh and fear none but Allāh. He should also avoid all acts that may cause Allāh's anger, such as praying to others besides Allāh, swearing by others besides Allāh, seeking assistance from the dead, walking around their graves and offering sacrifices to them.

A Muslim youth must also show love and hatred for the sake of Allāh alone. He must show love for those who are on the straight path of Islam and show hatred towards the Jews, Christians, the disbelievers and all those who fight Allāh, His Messenger ﷺ, His religion and His pious servants.

A Muslim youth must also realize that if there is a problem or a disagreement between him and someone else, he must

refer this matter to someone who will try to solve it in the light of Allāh's Law. He should not refer to manmade laws because these are false laws that are not approved of by Allāh. In fact, they are ignorant laws, as Allāh says:

﴿أَفَحُكْمَ الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ يَبْغُونَ وَمَنْ أَحْسَنُ مِنَ اللَّهِ حُكْمًا
لِقَوْمٍ يُوقِنُونَ﴾

“Do they then seek the judgement of *Jaahiliyyah* (the days of ignorance before Islam)? And who is better in judgement than Allāh for a people who have firm Faith.” (5:50)

A Muslim youth must believe in all of Allāh's Beautiful Names. Just as he believes that Allāh is the Creator, the Sustainer, the All-Hearing and the All-Seeing, he must also believe that He is the Law-Giver, Whose law must be referred to at all times. He commands and there is none to oppose His Command. Any law that is not approved

by Islam is false and whoever refers to it for judgement will certainly earn Allāh's wrath. The Qur'ān strongly criticizes those who refer to other than Allāh for judgement. Allāh says:

﴿أَفَغَيْرَ اللَّهِ أَبْتَغِي حَكْمًا وَهُوَ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ
إِلَيْكُمْ الْكِتَابَ مُفَصَّلًا﴾

“[Say (O Muhammad ﷺ):] ‘Shall I seek a judge other than Allāh while it is He Who has sent down unto you the Book (the Qur'ān), explained in detail?’” (6:114)

A Muslim youth must also give everyone his rights. He should worship Allāh alone, obey his parents, honor his guest, show kindness to his neighbors and the orphans, be truthful and never attempt to lie, cheat, steal, abuse or betray anyone. He must have good character, improve his relationship with everyone, show mercy and compassion for those younger than him and respect those who

are older than him.

He must avoid backbiting and slander, and if he has been abused by someone, he should suppress his anger and bear it patiently. He must demonstrate courage without being reckless, show generosity without being extravagant, and display careful spending without being stingy. He should strive hard to do all righteous acts and shun all evil actions.

‘Abdur-Rahmaan concluded the reading of his paper, leaving his audience of teachers and students amazed at the wonderful style he used in his writing and the firm evidence he quoted on this interesting and eye-opening subject.

Mr. Khaalid, the school principal, stood by ‘Abdur-Rahmaan’s side and said to him, “Because of the richness and importance of the material contained in your paper, the school administration has decided to publish your paper at its

own expense for free distribution in order to spread the Truth. The administration has also suggested making a slight change to the title. The new title will be: '*Laa ilaaha illallaah*, The Way of Life for Muslim Children as well as Adults.'"

Conclusion

The Children should note that Faith means the assertion that none deserves to be worshipped except Allāh, because He is our Creator, Sustainer and the Giver of Life and death.

All good and harm comes from Allāh alone and not from human beings or some other things like stars, etc.

We should always pray to Allāh and seek help only from Him in times of distress and ease.