

Sayyid Abul A'la Mawdudi

LET US BE
MUSLIMS

Edited by
Khurram Murad

The Islamic Foundation



Contents

Introduction by Khurram Murad 13

Preface to the First Edition 43

PART I: IMAN

1. Knowledge, the First Step 47

Allah's Greatest Gift 47

Is Islam a Birthright? 48

No Mere Verbal Profession 49

No Islam Without Knowledge 49

Dangers of Ignorance 50

Acquire Knowledge 51

2. Between Islam and Kufr 53

Muslims or Kafirs? 53

Knowledge and Actions 54

Why Are Muslims Humiliated Today? 56

Desire For Knowledge 59

3. How Muslims Treat the Qur'ān 61

Irreverence and Misuse 61

Incomprehensible Contradictions 62

The Consequences 64

No Islam Without Submitting to the Qur'ān 65

4. True Meaning of Iman 69

Difference the Kalimah Creates 69

- Is Mere Utterance Enough?* 70
Meaning of the Kalimah 71
Covenant With Allah 72
Accepting the Prophet's Leadership 73
Obligations of Commitment 74
Our Behaviour 76
- 5. Why is the Kalimah Unique?** 77
The Parable 77
Two Kinds of Trees 78
Characteristics of the Kalimah Tayyibah 79
Characteristics of the Kalimah Khabīthah 80
Contrasting Results 81
Why Are Believers in the Kalimah Not Flourishing? 82
Are Followers of the Kalimah Khabīthah Prospering? 83
- 6. Why Believe in the Kalimah?** 85
Success in the Hereafter 86
This-world and That-world 86
Success in That-World 87
True Purpose of the Kalimah 88
What Does the Kalimah Teach Us? 89
Actions Must Accord With Knowledge 89

PART II: ISLAM

- 7. The False Gods** 93
What is Kufr and Islam? 93
Islam: Total Surrender 94
Three Reasons for Going Astray 95
Self-worship — Society and Culture — Obedience to Human Beings
Condition of Muslims Today 99
- 8. Can We Call Ourselves Muslims?** 103
A True Muslim 103

- What is Hypocrisy?* 104
Serving the Self — Adherence to Society and Culture — Imitating Other People
- The True Faith* 106
Abstinence From Alcohol — Confession of Crime — Severance of Familial Ties — Giving Up Cultural Norms and Customs
- The Way to God's Pleasure* 109
- Muslims of Today* 110
- 9. Are We True Muslims?** 111
- Two Types of Islam* 112
Legal Islam — True Islam
- Two Kinds of Muslims* 114
Partial Muslims — True Muslims
- What Kind of Muslims God Desires* 115
- Supreme Loyalty to Allah* 116
- Where Do We Stand?* 117
- 10. Why Obey God?** 119
- Our Well-being* 119
- Obeying Others Besides Allah* 120
- The Only True Guidance* 122
- How to Benefit* 123
- No Blind Obedience* 124
- 11. Difference Between Din and Shari'ah** 125
- Meaning of Din* 125
- Meaning of Shari'ah* 128
- Nature of Differences* 129
- Juristic Differences Between Muslims* 130
- Ignoring the Nature of Differences* 131
- Sectarianism* 133
- 12. True Meaning of 'Ibadah** 135
- Meaning of 'Ibadah* 136
- Misunderstanding 'Ibadah* 137
- 'Ibadah, Lifelong Service* 139

PART III: SALAH

- 13. Meaning and Blessings of the Prayer 145**
Remembering God 145
Constant Reminder 147
Sense of Duty 148
God-consciousness 149
Knowledge of God's Law 150
Collective Life 151
- 14. What We Say in the Prayer 153**
Adhan and its Effects 153
Wuḍū': Ablution 155
Niyyah: Intention 155
Tasbīḥ: Glorification 156
Ta'awwudh: Seeking Refuge 156
Bismillah: In His Name 156
Ḥamd: Praise and Thanks 156
The Qur'ān Reading 157
 Surah al-'Aṣr — Surah al-Mā'ūn — Surah
 al-Humazah
Rukū': Bowing Down 160
Sujūd: Prostration 160
At-taḥiyyāt: Salutation 160
Ṣalāt 'ala 'n-nabiy: Blessings Upon the Prophet 161
Seeking Protection 162
Salām: Greetings 162
Du'ā' qunūt 163
Character-building 164
- 15. Blessings of the Congregational Prayer 165**
Private Worship of God 165
Assembling on One Call 167
Purposeful Assembly 167
Fellowship 168
The Sacred Purpose 168
Brotherhood 169
Uniformity in Movements 169

Uniformity in Prayers 170
Leadership 171
Nature and Qualities of Leadership 171
*Piety and Virtue — Majority Representation —
Sympathy and Compassion — Vacating Office —
Obedience to Leaders — Criticizing and
Correcting Mistakes — No Obedience in Sin*

- 16. Has the Prayer Lost its Power?** 175
Parable of the Clock 175
Aim of Muslim Ummah 176
Wholeness of Islamic Teachings 177
Abusing the Clock 178
Why Worship Rites are Ineffective 179
Our Deplorable Condition 180

PART IV: SAWM

- 17. Meaning and Blessings of the Fasting** 183
Life of Worship 183
Rituals Lead to a Life of Worship 184
How Does Fasting Develop Us? 184
*Exclusively Private Worship — Sure Sign of Faith
— Month-long Training — Practising Obedience
— Communal Fasting*
Where Are the Results? 188
- 18. True Spirit of the Fasting** 189
Spirit and Form 189
The Outward Replaces the Real 190
Wrong View of Worship 191
Fasting as a Way to Piety 192
Conditions of True Fasting 192
*Abstention From Falsehood — Faith and Self-
scrutiny — Shield Against Sins — Hunger for
Goodness*

PART V: ZAKAH

- 19. Fundamental Importance of Zakah** 197
- Meaning of Zakah* 197
 - Zakah, a Test* 198
 - Early Practice* 198
 - Categorical Imperative* 200
 - The Sign of Faith* 201
 - Foundation of the Ummah* 202
 - Conditions for God's Help* 203
 - Warning to Muslims* 203
 - Fate of Zakah Defaulters* 204
- 20. Meaning of Zakah** 207
- Becoming God's Friends* 207
 - Wisdom and Understanding — Moral Strength —*
 - Obedience and Dutifulness — Sacrificing Wealth*
 - Requirements for Admittance to God's Friendship* 210
 - Large-heartedness — Magnanimity — Selflessness*
 - Purity of Heart — Giving in Adversity —*
 - Giving in Affluence — Giving for Allah Alone —*
 - Stressing Benevolence — Amassing Wealth —*
 - Making Excuses — Spending Reluctantly and*
 - Resentfully — Considering Spending a Fine —*
 - Niggardliness*
 - The Real Test* 214
- 21. Zakah, a Social Institution** 217
- Allah's Unique Beneficence* 217
 - Man's Selfishness* 218
 - What Selfishness Leads To* 219
 - Individual and Collective Welfare* 220
 - What is the Solution?* 222
- 22. General Principles of Spending** 223
- Remembrance of God* 223
 - Spending in the Way of Allah* 224
 - Essential Prerequisite to Guidance* 225
 - Spend Only to Please Allah* 226

<i>Do Not Stress Your Benevolence</i>	227
<i>Give Only Good Things</i>	227
<i>Give Unobtrusively and Secretly</i>	228
<i>Guard Against Misuse</i>	228
<i>Do Not Harass Debtors</i>	228
<i>Take Due Care of Family</i>	229
<i>Give to the Deserving</i>	229

23. Specific Injunctions of Zakah 231

<i>Produce of the Earth</i>	231
<i>On Wealth and Financial Assets</i>	232
<i>Jewellery</i>	
<i>Who Are Entitled to Receive Zakah</i>	234
<i>Fuqarā': the poor — Masākīn: the destitute and needy — 'Amilīna 'alayhā: who administer Zakah — Mu'allafatu 'l-qulūb: who need to be reconciled — Fī'r-riqāb: freeing from bondage — Al-gharimīn: overburdened debtors — Fī-sabīli 'llāh: in the way of Allah — Ibnu 's-sabīl: travellers</i>	
<i>Other Important Principles</i>	236
<i>Need For Collective System</i>	238

PART VI: HAJJ

24. Origin and Significance of Hajj 243

<i>Life and Mission of the Prophet Ibrāhīm</i>	243
<i>Ibrāhīm's Times</i>	244
<i>Commitment to the Truth</i>	245
<i>Tribulations and Calamities</i>	246
<i>Migration</i>	247
<i>Raising a New Generation</i>	247
<i>The Greatest of Trials</i>	248
<i>The Universal Islamic Movement</i>	249
<i>Lūṭ in Sodom — Ishāq in Palestine — Construction of the Ka'ba</i>	
<i>Prayers of Ibrāhīm</i>	250

- 25. Restoration of True Hajj 253**
Idol Worship Among Ibrāhīm's Descendants 253
How Corrupted Hajj Became 254
A Yearly Carnival — Perverse Rites — Sacrilege of Sacred Months — Self-imposed Restrictions
Restoration of Hajj 256
Fulfilment of Ibrāhīm's Prayer — Revival of Ibrāhīm's Ways — End of Idolatry — Prohibition of Indecent Acts — Bragging and Showing Off — End of Ostentatious Generosity — Spattering of Blood and Flesh Banned — Prohibition of Perverse Rites — Changing the Months of Hajj Forbidden — Hajj Provisions Made Obligatory — Permission to Work During Hajj — End of Other Customs — Fixing Boundaries — Ensuring Peace and Security
Importance of Hajj 261
- 26. Renewal of Self 263**
The Journey 263
Virtue and Piety 264
Ihrām and its Conditions 265
Talbiyyah: the Cry of Response 265
Ṭawāf: Walking Round the House 266
Sa'ī: Hurrying Between Ṣafā' and Marwah 267
Wuqūf (Stay) at Minā', 'Arafāt and Muzdalifah 268
Ramī Jimār: Stoning the Pillars 268
The Impact of Hajj 270
Hajj, a Collective Worship 271
- 27. Renewal of Society 273**
Growth in God-consciousness 273
A Season of Reawakening 274
Inspiring Spectacle of Unity 275
Greatest Movement for Peace 276
Centre of Peace and Equality 277
Our Lack of Appreciation 279
Deriving Full Benefit From Hajj 281

PART VII: JIHAD

- 28. Meaning of Jihad** 285
The Ultimate Objective 285
Root of All Evil 286
The First Step 287
Origin of Corrupt Rule 288
God's Lordship Over Man 290
Temptation of Power 291
Rituals, a Training Course 291
Governments Run by God-conscious People 292
- 29. Central Importance of Jihad** 295
Din, Shari'ah and 'Ibadah 295
Duality of Din 296
Every Din Wants Power 297
Popular Sovereignty — Monarchy — British Rule
Din of Islam 299
Jihad in Islam 300
Recognizing True Believers 302
Change Only Through Struggle 302
- Preface to the Eighth Reprint 305
- Index of Quranic Verses 309