

NAQĀWATUL 'AQĪDAH

SHAYKH MUḤAMMAD NAWAWĪ AL-JĀWĪ

The Quintessential Muslim Creed

Abstract

The author was born in his homeland of Jāwa (Indonesia/Malaysia) and came to Mecca at a young age where he took up residence. He grew up in the sacred city and studied with many of its scholars such as Sayyid Aḥmad al-Naḥrāwī, Aḥmad al-Dimyāṭī and others. Many of the students from the lands of Jāwa studied with him with their being more than two hundred students attending his lesson. He was described as being humble and avoiding publicity and fame. He undertook a number of journeys to Egypt and Shām and took from the senior scholars of those lands. His days were spent in teaching, giving benefit and authoring works coupled with worship. This is a draft translation of his short beginners text on creed according to Sunni theological positions. The author also penned a short commentary on this text, a translation of which may be published in the future, God willing.

In the Name of Allah, Most Merciful, Most Kind

1. All praise is due to Allah who is One in His Essence, Attributes and Creating
2. Thereafter salutations and blessings be upon the Prophet Muḥammad, his family and companions
3. To proceed: have firm conviction and belief in your heart regarding the meaning of the two testimonies regarding Allah and the Prophet
4. Allah Exists without a beginning and is Everlasting with his Essence and is unlike the creation
5. He is free of other than Him, He is One and Living, All-Powerful with Power, He Wills everything
6. All-Knowing, All-Hearing and All-Seeing with Sight, He has Speech but unlike that of humans
7. All perfection is necessitated for His Essence and every deficiency is impossible in regards to Him
8. The occurrence of the rationally possible is conceivable for Him, such as His provision of good and sending the Messengers
9. That which is necessary for them is the conveying of the message and truthfulness, and infallibility from that which has been prohibited and intelligence

10. Negated are the opposite such as any defective trait, other than these are possible such as eating and marriage
11. It is incumbent on us to believe in the Messengers, the Prophets, the divinely revealed books and recording angels
12. The sending forth, the pool, taking to account, the weighing of actions, the bridge and the book
13. The Throne, Footstool and intercession, the tablet, pen, *barzakh* and its pleasures
14. Its punishment, paradise and hellfire, the maidens, palaces and servants
15. It is incumbent on us to believe in Qadā' and Qadr whether it brings benefit or harm
16. Then believe that the creations actions are created by Allah so do not divert away from this
17. The vision of God and the night journey of the Prophet, the innocence of 'Aī'shah from lies
18. The best of creation is Muḥammad with whom the Messengers were completed and was sent to everyone
19. Then know twenty five of them and they are:
20. Adam, Idrīs, Nūḥ, Ḥūd - Ṣāliḥ, Ibrāhīm, Lūṭ
21. Ishāq, Ismā'il, Ya'qūb - Yūsūf, Ayyūb, Shu'ayb, Mūsā
22. Hārūn, al-Yasa', Dhul-Kifl - Dāwūd, his son Sulaimān
23. Ilyās, Yūnus, Zakariyyā, Yaḥyā - 'Īsā, Muḥammad upon him be peace
24. They are all from the All-Merciful until the last day
25. Then know with certainty the ten, Jibrīl, Mīkā'il the apportioner of provision
26. In the tablet, Isrāfil, 'Izrā'il, Riḍwān, Mālik, Raqīb
27. 'Atīd, Munkar, Nakīr before them both, Romān, Nākūr it is said with them both
28. Know the scrolls of Mūsā, Ibrāhīm likewise the Torah, Injīl and Zabūr
29. The Qurān then other than them generally
30. Know both the lineage of the Prophet and his physical form, his children, Qāsim, Zaynab came
31. Ruqayyah and then followed Fātimah, Umm Kulthūm and 'Abdullah then
32. Ibrāhīm from Māriyah

33. Know the special unique qualities of the Prophet which are necessary, such as the unlawful for him, a dispensation or a virtue
34. The establishing of the religion such as purification, fasting, prayer and zakāt
35. Act upon the *taqlīd* of an Imām and then, preserve all of the general principles and then complete
36. By abandoning wishing to be known, narcissism, arrogance, showing off, jealousy, gossiping and backbiting
37. I have named it *Naqāwatul 'Aqīdah*, Its verses should be sought
38. Its date is 1300, O Lord envelop us in Your *lutf*, and our children and fulfil our needs in all matters
39. All praise is due to Allah, salutations and blessings be upon the prophet, the household, companions and the people of virtue