

In the name of Allah, the most gracious the most merciful
Peace and blessing be showered up on the most pious messenger who was sent only to be the mercy for all creation.
Dear brothers and Sisters ASAWW

The prophet ﷺ said, "If anyone dies and believed there is no God worthy of worship but Allah, he will enter the paradise" Authentic by Imam Muslim

Abu Hurayrah also narrates from the beloved prophet (ﷺ) said, "I bear witness that there is no god worthy of worship except Allah and I am the messenger of Allah those who have no doubt will enter paradise" [Imam Muslim]

The messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, "Anyone who bears witness that there is no god but Allah, and Mohammed is his messenger, will have been pardoned from hellfire" [Imam Muslim]

The messenger of Allah would accept anyone to be a Muslim - after they bore witness that there is no god but Allah, and Mohammed is his messenger – their mistakes were left in the past. For example, the well-known highway-man, Abi Zar Al Ghafari (may Allah be pleased with him), who said, I went to the prophet (ﷺ) and said, Asalamu Alykum Ya Rasulu Allah(Peace be up on you oh messenger of Allah) "I bear witness that there is no god but Allah and witness that Mohammed is his messenger" he said, I have seen the good news from his face.

This big pillar of Islam is the main point that differentiates between believers and non-believers. So it is very important for all believers to know its complete meaning and its conditions in order to be totally submissive to it.

The meaning of "There is no god but Allah"

What is the meaning of "there is no god but Allah? This is a declaration to witness that is also a fundamental point of all other religions and prophethoods from Adam (ﷺ) until this day. Adam (ﷺ) came with it, other messengers came with it like Noh, Hud, Salih, Ibrahim and other messengers (PBU them all) All of them were calling their nations on to this word of Tawhid (monotheism)

Allah SWT tells us in surah

"We certainly sent into every nations (saying) worship Allah and avoid taqhut the oppressor/Tyrant" [an Nahl v3

He SWT also said, **"We have not sent any messengers unless we have revealed to them that there is no deity except me, so worship me" Al Anbia verse 25**

Our prophet (ﷺ), when appointed as a messenger by Allah SWT, started with his family and tribe. He told them "declare testimony that there is no god but Allah and you will be successful". They did worshipped figures of authority, trees and also had a lot of gods that they worshipped around the Kaba. Some remained in fierce denial because they knew making this testimony required submission and to live it like a slogan in their lives!

Allah SWT tells us: **"The almighty Lord (Allah) has made all the other gods Indeed, this is a curious thing [Sad verse 5**

They refused to believe in monotheism due to their ignorance and denial. They followed their culture and the practice of their parents who were also worshippers of lots of different objects for devotion.

This word is the biggest part of the faith as it has been narrated in a hadith that the prophet (ﷺ) said, **“The faith is more than 60 portions (or more than 70 in another narration). The biggest of them is to believe that there is no Lord but Allah and the smallest portion is to remove small objects from people’s way and respect is part of faith”** This powerful hadith is showing us the fundamental part of our faith. To take it as a slogan to believe “there is no lord but Allah” means to go beyond only devoting to Allah. The fact is that we establish certainty with proofs that every other object or influence is proven wrong if Allah SWT, the only Lord, creator and Sustainer, who grants success in this life and the hereafter, says that something is wrong.

Ibn Omer (may Allah be pleased with him) said, our beloved prophet (ﷺ) said, “Islam is built on five attributes and they are: believe in one God, observe 5 times prayers, pay Zakat, observe fasting during the months of Ramadan and trip to Haj pilgrimage to Kaba”. First, believe in Allah alone and Second, disbelieve in other objects of devotion. This is what it means to have believed in monotheism completely!

Abu Hurayrah narrates from the prophet (ﷺ) when Jiraiel (angel Gabriel ﷺ) asked about Islam. The messenger (ﷺ) said, Islam is to worship Allah and do not associate him with any partner, observe prayers until the end of the narration.

Allah SWT tells us in surah Al Haj verse 62

“That is because Allah is the truth, and that which they call up on other than Him is falsehood and because Allah is the Most high the Grand!”

To those declaring and acting in witness of the Shahada - “there is no god worthy of worship except Allah” – this means the person who pronounces it is the disbeliever of monotheism only and disbelieves in all Taghuts (root word for which is transgressing by putting things in their wrong place) because Allah tells us:

So whoever disbelieves in Taghut and believe in Allah has grasped the most trustworthy handhold with no break in it [surah Al Baqarah verse 256]

This denouncing of influencers who “make things happen”, rather than Creator Allah, is a central feature of belief that all messengers have said to their nations **“Oh my people, worship Allah, you have no deity other than Him! [Al Araf v59]**

This is the invitation of all messengers **“We certainly have sent into every nation a messenger (Saying) Worship Allah and avoid Taghut tyrant!” [an Nahl v36]**

It ought to be borne in mind that human beings can’t continuously believe in Allah if they don’t avoid or denounce Taghuts Tyrants as Allah SWT mentioned:

“ So whoever disbelieves in Taghut and believe in Allah has grasped the most trustworthy handhold with no break in it”. [Surah Al Baqarah verse 25]

So this is the first part of the Shahada - “There is no lord worthy of worship but Allah” – and it includes denouncing all other objects of devotion other than Allah SWT. That is a part of complete belief in monotheism. And Shaykh Ibn Othaimen (May Allah be pleased with him) defined “Taghuts” as all of those sources causing you to refuse obedience to what pleases Allah and refusing to follow His messengers in their way to achieve this.