

What is Incumbent upon the New Muslim To Implement and to Abandon

The Noble Scholar, al-‘Allāmah
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Translation by Maaz Qureshi¹

The praise is for Allāh and may peace and salutations be upon our Prophet, Muḥammad, and upon his Family and his Companions. To proceed:

So Allāh has created the creation for His worship. Allāh said,

“And I did not create the *Jinn* and mankind except to worship Me.”

[Sūrah al-Dhāriyāt 51:56]

And Allāh is not to be worshipped, except by that which He has legislated. And He sent His Messengers to clarify to the people whatever He has legislated, because worshipping Allāh with other than what He has legislated is baseless. And He ended the Messengers with His Messenger: Muḥammad (*ṣallallāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam*) and He made it obligatory upon all of mankind to follow him. Allāh the Exalted said,

“Say: (O Muḥammad) O mankind, indeed I am the Messenger of Allāh to you all.” [Sūrah al-A‘rāf 7:158]

So whoever does not believe in Muḥammad (*ṣallallāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam*), then he is a disbeliever. And the Religion of Muḥammad (*ṣallallāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam*) is Islām and Allāh will never accept any other religion besides it. Allāh the Exalted said,

“And whosoever seeks a religion other than Islām, then it will never be accepted of him, and in the Hereafter he will be one of the losers.”

[Sūrah Āli-‘Imrān 3:85]

And the Islām that Muḥammad (*ṣallallāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam*) came with has five pillars: [i] the testimony that there is none worthy of worship besides Allāh and that Muḥammad is the Messenger of Allāh; [ii] and the establishment of the Prayer; [iii] and payment of

¹ Taken from <http://www.alfawzan.af.org.sa/node/13814>.

the *zakāt* (alms); [iv] and fasting in the month of *Ramaḍān*; [v] and *Ḥajj* (pilgrimage) to the Sacred House of Allāh in accordance with one's ability.²

What the Individual Who Wishes to Enter into Islām Must Do:

He must utter the two testimonies of faith and then he must offer the pillars of Islām in the following manner:

1. He must say, "I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship besides Allāh and I bear witness that Muḥammad is the Messenger of Allāh."

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

"*Ash-hadu an lā ilāha illallāh, wa ash-hadu anna Muḥammadan Rasūl Allāh.*" And he must utter this out loud.

2. He must pray the five Prayers: *al-Fajr* (morning Prayer), *al-Zuhr* (noon Prayer), *al-ʿAṣr* (afternoon Prayer), *al-Maghrib* (evening Prayer) and *al-Ishāʿ* (night Prayer) during every day and night throughout the whole of his life. The *Fajr* Prayer is two units and the *Zuhr* Prayer is four units and the *ʿAṣr* Prayer is four units and the *Maghrib* Prayer is three units and the *Ishāʿ* Prayer is four units. And one must not pray, except after he performs the ablution (*wuḍūʿ*). That occurs by washing the entirety of the face and washing the hands and arms up to (and including) the elbows and wiping the head and washing the feet up to (and including) the ankles with water that is pure.
3. If he possesses an abundance of wealth, exceeding that for which he has need, he must take out 2.5% of it as *zakāt* (alms) for the needy and the destitute every year. And if his wealth does not exceed his need, then there is no *zakāt* upon him.
4. He must fast the month of *Ramaḍān*, and it is the ninth month of the *Hijrī* year. He must abandon eating, drinking and sexual intercourse with his wife from sunrise to the sunset. He is permitted to eat, drink and have sexual intercourse with his wife at night only.
5. If he has the financial and physical capability, then he must perform the *Ḥajj* (pilgrimage) to the House of Allāh at least once in a lifetime. And if he has the financial capability, but he does not have the physical capability due to old age or a chronic illness, then he must entrust someone to perform the *Ḥajj* on his behalf once.
6. He must perform whatever remains from acts of obedience, since that is a completion of these pillars.

² **Translator's Note:** From Abī ʿAbd al-Raḥmān ʿAbdullāh Ibn ʿUmar Ibn al-Khaṭṭāb (*radīyallāhu ʿanhumā*) who said, "I heard the Messenger of Allāh (*ṣallallāhu ʿalayhi wa sallam*) saying, 'Islām is built upon five: the testimony that there is none worthy of worship besides Allāh and that Muḥammad is the Messenger of Allāh, the establishment of the Prayer, payment of the *zakāt* (alms), *Ḥajj* (pilgrimage) to the House and fasting in the month of *Ramaḍān*.'" Related by al-Bukhārī (1/8) and Muslim (16/151).

What is Incumbent upon the New Muslim to Abandon:

1. He must abandon *Shirk* (associating others with Allāh in worship) with all of its types. And it is to worship other than Allāh and from it is supplication (*du‘ā’*) to the dead, sacrificing for them and taking oaths by them.
2. He must abandon *bida‘* (innovations). And they are acts of worship that have not be legislated by the Messenger of Allāh, Muḥammad (*ṣallallāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam*), due to the statement of the Prophet (*ṣallallāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam*), “Whosoever does an act that is not in accordance with this affair of ours, then it is rejected.”³ That is, it is not accepted.
3. He must abandon usuary (*ribā*), gambling, bribes and lying in dealings and buying and selling unlawful commodities.
4. He must abandon *zinā* (adultery, fornication). And it is to have sexual intercourse with someone other than his lawfully wedded wife. And he must abandon homosexuality.
5. He must abandon the consumption of intoxicants, eating swine, whatever was sacrificed for other than Allāh and eating the carcasses.
6. He must abandon marriage to the disbelieving women who are not from the people of the Book (i.e. Jews and Christians).
7. He must separate from his disbelieving wife who is not from the people of the Book, except if the disbelieving woman accepts Islām along with him or during her *‘iddah*.⁴
8. If circumcision will not harm him, then he must be circumcised by a Muslim surgeon.
9. If he is able to move from the land of the disbelievers to the land of Islām, then he must do so. If he is unable, then he must remain in his country and hold onto his Religion.

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19/03/1433H

³ Related by Muslim (no. 1718).

⁴ **Translator’s Note:** The *‘iddah* is the period a woman must observe after the death of her spouse or after a divorce, during which she may not marry another man. Refer to *Majmū‘ah As‘ilah Tuhamm al-Usrah al-Muslimah* (p. 61-62) of Imām Muḥammad Ibn Ṣāliḥ al-‘Uthaymīn (d.1421H).