

ESSENTIALS OF ISLAMIC BELIEFS

Dardir's Kharida Explained

Lesson One: Introduction



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STEP ONE ESSENTIALS CERTIFICATE

SEEKERSHUB TORONTO ISLAMIC SEMINARY



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Lesson One: Essentials of Beliefs

One. Subject, Author, Text
Two. Author's Opening
Basmala. Praising Allah Most High. Blessings
on the Prophet (peace be upon him)
Three.



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One. Subject, Author, Text



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The Subject: Islamic Beliefs

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Value of knowledge is by the value of what is known—the subject

Subject: Allah. The Prophets. The Hereafter.

Purpose: Islamic Beliefs

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One. To know the necessary, possible, and absurd for Allah, likewise for His Prophets, and matters of transmitted beliefs.

Two. To understand the details of sound beliefs

Three. To know first principles that support belief

Four. To know the proofs for core beliefs

Five. The increase in faith and certitude

[Six. The attainment of Closeness and Beholding]

The Author: Imam Dardir

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Ahmad ibn Muhammad al-Dardir

1127 AH - 1201 AH (1786), aged 74 yrs

Master of the major Islamic sciences:

One. Great authority in Islamic law (Maliki)

Two. Great theologian (this work)

Three. Great master of the spiritual path (Khalwati)

The Text: al-Kharida al-Bahiyya

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الخريدة البهية

al-Kharida al-Bahiyya (“The Radiant Pearl”)

71-line didactic poem “light and small in size, but great in knowledge”

Why in poem form?

Benefits of memorization: (1) retaining knowledge; (2) bridge for retaining

understanding; (3) discipline; (4) mastery

Text: Five Parts

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One. Introduction — Lessons 1-3

Opening. The Rational Rulings.

Two. Belief in God (ilahiyyat) — Lessons 4-8

Attributes of Negation. Affirmative Attributes.

Rational Absurdities: Infinite Regress and
Circularity. The Relations of Attributes.

Text: Five Parts

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Three. Prophets (nubuwwat) — Lesson 9

The Necessary, Possible, and Absurd for Prophets

Four. Transmitted Beliefs (sam`iyyat) — Lesson 10

Angels, Jinn, and the Afterlife

Five. Spirituality (tasawwuf) — 11-12

Ten Key Qualities of the People of Perfected
Faith

Two. Author's Opening Basmala Lines 1-8

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The Basmala

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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

By the Name of Allah, All-Merciful, Most
Compassionate

Something implicit: the specific action you are beginning

By the Name of Allah, Merciful and Compassionate {I
begin}

What does 'By the Name of Allah' mean?

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By the Name of Allah, All-Merciful, Most Compassionate

By the Name of Allah: (1) relying upon Allah (bi'l Llah); (2) with Allah (ma'a'l Llah); (3) for Allah (li'l Llah)

Reliant upon Allah, with Allah, for Allah [*intend the action*]

Divine Names: Allah, Rahman, Rahim

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Allah: the One alone worthy of worship; the necessary existent; the creator; the one who sustains all things, and needs none to sustain Him

al-Rahman al-Rahim - from Rahma (Mercy)

Mercy: concern for good, expressed in bestowing blessings

al-Rahman: the Bestower of manifest blessings

al-Rahim: the Bestower of subtle blessings

Lines One-Two: Praising Allah

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١- يَقُولُ رَاجِي رَحْمَةَ الْقَدِيرِ أَيُّ أَحْمَدُ الْمَشْهُورِ بِالذُّبْرِ ١٨

٢- الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْعَلِيِّ الْوَاحِدِ الْعَالِمِ الْفَرْدِ الْغَنِيِّ الْمَجِيدِ ١٩

In the Name of Allah, Merciful and Compassionate

**1. Ahmad Dardir, hopeful of the Mercy
Of the Most Powerful, says:**

**2. Praise be to Allah the High, the One
The Knowing, Singular, Independent, and Majestic**

Explanation: Praising Allah

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**2. Praise be to Allah the High, the One
The Knowing, Singular, Independent, and
Majestic**

Praise (hamd) and Gratitude (shukr)

Praise: uttered recognition of any good

Gratitude: recognizing blessing upon one;
appreciating; expressing as befits

The mention of key Names of Allah: this is what the
subject is about

Line Three-Four: Sending blessings

٣- وَأَفْضَلُ الصَّلَاةِ وَالسَّلَامِ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ الْمُصْطَفَى الْكَرِيمِ
٤- وَآلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ الْأَطْهَارِ لَا سَبِيحًا زَفِيحُهُ فِي الْغَارِ

3. May the best of blessings and peace
Be upon the Chosen and Noble Prophet
4. And upon his pure family and companions,
Especially his Companion in the cave.

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Explanation: Sending Blessings

3. May the best of blessings and peace
Be upon the Chosen and Noble Prophet
- One. Blessings (salat)

Salat: mercy with exaltation

- Two. Peace (salam)

Salam: recognition with honour, safety from harm,
eternal serenity

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Explanation: Prophet and Messenger

3. May the best of blessings and peace
Be upon the Chosen and Noble Prophet
- Three. Prophet (nabi)

Prophet (nabi): a human honoured by Allah with
revelation (wahi)

Messenger (rasul): a Prophet with particular duty to
convey the revelation

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Explanation

4. And upon his pure family and companions,
Especially his Companion in the cave.

- One. Family of the Prophet (wa Alihi)

Specific: his family and descendents; general: all believers

- Two. Companions (sahaba)

Companion: anyone who met the Prophet, believing in
him, and died a believer

- Three. Abu Bakr

Why mention specifically?

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Line Five: This Poem

وَعَلَيْهِ عَقِيدَةٌ سَنِيَّةٌ سَمِيَّتُهَا الْحَرِيدَةُ الْبَهِيَّةُ ٢٦

**5. This is an excellent statement of beliefs
Which I have named “The Radiant Pearl”**

- One. Why a poem?
- Two. Aqida: firm belief
- Three. Why ‘radiant’?
- Four. Comparison to pearls?

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Line Six-Seven: Praise of Text

٢٦ - لَطِيفَةٌ صَغِيرَةٌ فِي الْحَجْمِ لَكِنَّهَا كَبِيرَةٌ فِي الْمَعْنَى

٢٧ - تَكْفِيكَ عِلْمًا إِنْ تُرِدْ أَنْ تَكْتَفِيَ لِأَنَّهَا بِرُزْنَةِ الْفَنِّ تُفِي ٢٨

6. Though light and small in size,

It is tremendous in the knowledge it contains

7. It is enough for you if you wish to stop with it,

For it contains the essentials of the science of beliefs

- One. Benefit of brevity—a sunna of speech
- Two. Benefits of this work: (1) Enough: essentials of belief; (2) Foundation: if you seek to build

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Line Eight: Supplication

٢٨ - وَاللَّهِ أَزُجُّو فِي قَبُولِ الْعَمَلِ وَالنَّفْعَ مِنْهَا ثُمَّ غَفَرَ الرَّذِيلَ ٢٨

**8. And from Allah alone do I hope for acceptance of my actions
And for benefit from this, and for the forgiveness of all slips.**

- One. What is hope (raja')?
- Seeking a desired matter and taking sound means to it
- Two. What is acceptance (qabul)?
- Allah rewarding in the Hereafter.

Key Conditions: sincerity and soundness

Three. Benefit: in this life and the next, for oneself and for others

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**Next Lesson: The Rational Rulings
Knowing the Necessary, Possible,
and Absurd**

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