

ESSENTIALS OF ISLAMIC BELIEFS

Imam Ahmad al-Dardir's Kharida Explained

Lesson Three: Belief in Allah

Faraz Rabbani



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Review Lesson Two

Four Questions:

One. What is a {ruling (hukm)}?

Two. What is the difference between a {rational ruling (hukm `aqli)} and a normative ruling (hukm `adi)} — give 3-5 examples

Three. Who is the morally responsible person (mukallaf)?

Four. What is the ruling of believing in Allah and His Messenger (peace be upon him)?



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Lesson Three

One. Ghazali on the Importance of this Science

Two. This World is Created—Without Doubt

Three. Some Qur'anic Arguments



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Part One. Imam Ghazali on the Importance of this Science



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Ghazali: Why the Science of Beliefs is Important

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One. The intelligent direct themselves to benefit.

The important: tht which fulfills one's purpose—
ultimate purpose: one's position in Paradise

Two. Beliefs: what the Prophets came with

Given miracles to prove their truthfulness—and these
are the truths they came with

Three. Science of Beliefs: Formalization of the Arguments of the Prophets

To address the challenges—personal, collective—to
belief and certitude

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Ghazali: Who needs proofs?

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One. Some individuals need detailed proofs

They have questions, doubts, lack of clarity
The detailed proofs are like medicine

Two. Some specialists needed—like specialist doctors

Must have: (1) sharp mind and sound judgment, (2)
deep faith, (3) well-rooted in the Qur'an and Sunna

Three. General proofs give clarity and certitude

Understanding, increase in conviction

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Part Two. This World is Created—Without Doubt And its limits

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Lines 17-19

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١٧. ثُمَّ اعْلَمُوا بِأَنَّ هَذَا الْعَالَمَ أَنَّى مَا سِوَى اللَّهِ الْعَلِيِّ الْعَالِمِ
١٨. مِنْ غَيْرِ شَيْءٍ خَارِجٍ مُتَقَرِّرٍ لِأَنَّهُ لَمَّا بِهِ الْمُنْقَرِرُ
١٩. اِخْتَرَقَهُ وَجُودُهُ بَعْدَ الْعَدَمِ وَبَعْدَهُ هُوَ الْمُنْقَرِعُ بِالْقَدَمِ

17. Then know that this universe,
Which is everything besides Allah the High and
Knowing

18. Is without doubt originated and dependent,
Because it is subject to change

19. Its origination is its existence after non-existence
And the opposite of this is named? Beginninglessness

Lines 17-18: The world as a sign

١٧. ثُمَّ اِنۡعَلَمۡنَ بِاَنَّ هٰذَا الْمَآلَمَآ اَنۡى مَا سَوٰى اللّٰهِ الْعَلِیُّ الْعَالِیَمَآ
١٨. مِنْ غَیۡرِ شَیْءٍ خَاصٍّ مُّشۡفِقٍ بِاَنۡهٗ قَامَ بِہِ الشَّغِیۡرُ

17. Know that this universe, which is everything besides Allah the High and Knowing

18. Is without doubt originated and dependent, Because it is subject to change

One. This 'world' - everything that exists, besides Allah
Two. Everything is created
Three. Proof of creation: change

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Change: Qur'an, 3.190-200

“Indeed, in the *creation* of the heavens and the earth and the *alternation* of day and night are signs for people of understanding.

Those who *remember* Allah standing, sitting, and on their sides—and *reflect* on the *creation* of the heavens and the earth: “Our Lord! You have not created ‘all of’ this without purpose. Glory be to You! Protect us from the torment of the Fire.” [3.190-191]

The Prophet (peace be upon him) would recite at night—recommended!

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The world as a sign

١٧. ثُمَّ اِنۡعَلَمۡنَ بِاَنَّ هٰذَا الْمَآلَمَآ اَنۡى مَا سَوٰى اللّٰهِ الْعَلِیُّ الْعَالِیَمَآ
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١٩. اَعۡدُوۡلُہٗ وَجۡوَدُہٗ یُنۡدِ الْعَدَمَ وَضِلَّہٗ هُوَ الْمُنۡتَی بِالْقِدَمِ

17. Then know that this universe,

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Three lines from Imam Laqani's Jawharat al-Tawhid

١٥ - فَانۡظُرْ اِلَیۡ نَفۡسِکَ لِلْعَالَمِ الْعُلُوِّیِّ ثُمَّ الشُّغُلِیِّ
١٦ - تَجِدُ بِہِ صُنۡعًا یَدۡنِعُ الْحَکَمَ لَکِنۡ بِہِ قَامَ دَلِیۡلُ الْعَدَمِ
١٧ - وَکُلُّ مَا جَاۡزَ عَلَیۡہِ الْعَدَمُ عَلَیۡہِ قَطۡعًا یَسۡتَحِیۡلُ الْقِدَمَ

15. So look to yourself, then turn to the higher and lower worlds

16. You'll find a creation of marvel and perfection, but in it is the proof of its nothingness

17. Everything for which non-existence is possible couldn't possibly be eternal

Everything changes—actually or potentially

Anything that can change: (a) originated (hadith); (b) needy (muftaqir)

Everything originated is merely possible—and needs an originator

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Everything Originated Needs an Originator

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Everything in existence is originated
Everything originated requires an originator
There can only be One originator—Eternal,
Knowing, Willing, Powerful

Other options: (a) infinite regress (tasalsul)
or (b) circularity (dawr)—both absurd

Recommended: 'Why Islam is True' by Sh.

Hamza Karamali

Part Three. Some Qur'anic Arguments

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Reflect: Qur'an, 13.16

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Ask: "Who is the Lord of the heavens and the earth?" Say, "Allah!" Ask: "Why then have you taken besides Allah masters who cannot even benefit or protect themselves?"

Say, "Can the blind and those who understand be compared? Or can darkness and light be equal?"

Or have they associated with Allah partners who 'supposedly' produced a creation like His, leaving them confused between the two creations?

Say, "Allah is the Creator of all things, and He is the One, the Supreme."

قُلْ مَنْ رَبُّ السَّمَوَاتِ
وَالْأَرْضِ قُلْ اللَّهُ قُلْ أَفَأَعَدْتُمْ مِنْ دُونِهِ آلِهَةً لَا يَمْلِكُونَ لَهُمْ
نَفْعًا وَلَا ضَرًّا قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الْأَعْمَى وَالْبَصِيرُ أَمْ هَلْ تَسْتَوِي
الظُّلُمَاتُ وَالنُّورُ أَمْ جَعَلُوا لِلَّهِ شُرَكَاءَ خَلَقُوا كَتَلَابُخًا فَفَنَشَبَهُ الْمُلْحَفُ
عَلَيْهِمْ قُلْ اللَّهُ خَالِقُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُوَ الْوَاحِدُ الْقَهَّارُ ﴿١٦﴾

Reflect: Surat al-Tur, 52.35-43

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(35) Or were they created by nothing, or are they the creators? (36) Or did they create the heavens and the earth? In fact, they have no clarity. (37) Or do they possess the treasures of your Lord, or are they in control? (38) Or do they have a stairway, by which they eavesdrop? Then let those who do so bring compelling proof. (39) Or does He have daughters, while you have sons? (40) Or are you 'O Prophet' asking them for a reward so that they are overburdened by debt? (41) Or do they have access to the Unseen, so they record it? (42) Or do they have some scheme? Then it is the disbelievers who will fall victim to their own schemes. (43) Or do they have a god other than Allah? Glorified is Allah far above what they associate with Him!

أَمْ خُلِقُوا مِنْ غَيْرِ شَيْءٍ أَمْ هُمْ الْخَالِقُونَ ﴿٣٥﴾ أَمْ خَلَقُوا
السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بَلْ لَا يُوقِنُونَ ﴿٣٦﴾ أَمْ عِنْدَهُمْ خَزَائِنُ
رَبِّكَ أَمْ هُمْ الْمُنْتَظِرُونَ ﴿٣٧﴾ أَمْ لَهُمْ شُرَكَاءُ يَتَخَسَّعُونَ لَهُمْ يَلْبِثُونَ
مُسْتَعِينًا مُسْطَلِينَ ثَمِينًا ﴿٣٨﴾ أَمْ لَهُ الْبَنَاتُ وَلَكُمْ الْبَنُونَ ﴿٣٩﴾
أَمْ تَسْأَلُهُمْ أَجْرًا فَهُمْ مِنْ مَغْرُورٍ مُثْقَلُونَ ﴿٤٠﴾ أَمْ عِنْدَهُمُ الْغَيْبُ فَهُمْ
يَكْتُمُونَ ﴿٤١﴾ أَمْ يَرِيدُونَ كَيْدًا فَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا هُمُ الْمَكِيدُونَ ﴿٤٢﴾
أَمْ هُمْ إِلَهٌ غَيْرُ اللَّهِ سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ ﴿٤٣﴾ وَإِنْ يَرَوْا كِسْفًا

Other Qur'anic Arguments

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Surat al-An`am, 6.73-81
Surat al-Anbiya', 21.52
Surat Maryam, 19.41-48
Surat al-Shu`ara', 42.80-85

Everything Originated Needs an Originator

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The Spiritual Vision: Everything is Perishing

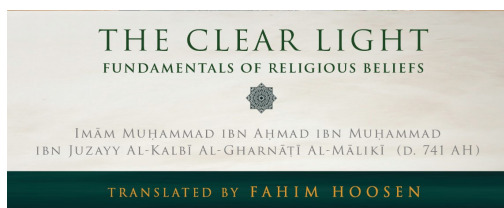
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Say: Allah, and leave existence and all it contains
—if you seek to attain perfection
For everything besides Allah, if you consider it, is
nothingness, in detail or in summary
Know that you and all creation, entirely, were it
not for Him would be effaced and extinguished
Anything that has no existence for itself from itself,
then its existence without Him is pure absurdity
So those who truly know were extinguished and
beheld none besides the Great and Exalted
And beheld all besides as perishing—at present, in
the past, and in the future.
(Abu Madyan, Diwan)

إِنْ كُنْتَ مُرَادًا بِالْمَوْجِدِ كَالِ
عَدَمٍ عَلَى التَّفْصِيلِ وَالْإِجْمَالِ
لَوْلَا فِي مَجَرِّ وَفِي أَضْجَعَالِ
وُجُودِهِ لَوْلَا عَيْنُ مَحَالِ
شَيْئًا سِوَى الْمُتَكَبِّرِ الْمُتَعَالِ
فِي الْحَالِ وَالْأَمَانِيِّ وَالْإِسْتِقْبَالِ
أَلَمْ يَقُلْ وَقَدْ رَأَى الْوُجُودَ وَمَا جَوَى
فَالْكَفْلُ دُونَ اللَّهِ إِنْ حَقَّقْتَهُ
وَأَعْلَمَ بِأَنَّكَ وَالْعَالَمُ كُلُّهَا
مَنْ لَا وَجُودَ لِدَائِهِ مِنْ ذَاتِهِ
فَالْمَارْفُوقُونَ قُبْرًا وَكَلْبًا يَشْبَهُو
وَرَأَوْا سِرَّهُ عَلَى الْحَقِيقَةِ هَالِكًا

Recommended Book (PDF provided)

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The First Fundamental: Divinities (Theology)
Section One: Establishing the Existence of God, Most High and that He is the Lord of the Worlds and the Creator of all Creation
Section Two: Monotheism: The meaning of 'There is no god but God'
Section Three: Establishing God's Attributes
Section Four: Transcendence of God Almighty

**Next: Lesson Four:
Introduction to Theology and
Attributes of Negation
Lines 20-24**