

اعلمَ أرشدك اللهُ لطاعته

Know, may Allaah direct you to obedience to Him¹²

[12]:

His saying, “Know, may Allaah direct you”: this is as if it is the beginning of a third treatise, because two treatises have preceded. The first treatise was the four matters which are comprised by *Soorat-ul-'Aqr*, and the second treatise was the three matters which have preceded, and the third treatise is this one, and a fourth treatise will follow which is the Three Fundamental Principles. So his saying he, may Allaah have mercy upon him, “Know!”, then speech about its wording and an explanation of its meaning and what is meant its being brought has preceded.

His saying, “May Allaah direct you”: this is a supplication from the Shaikh *rahimabullaah* for everyone who reads this treatise seeking to understand it, seeking to act upon it, that Allaah should direct him. And *Al-Irshaad* (direction) it means: guidance to what is correct and to be granted beneficial knowledge and righteous action. And *Ar-Rushd* (right guidance), is the opposite of *Al-Ghayy* (misguidance or error). He the Most High said:

﴿قَدْ بَيَّنَّ الرُّشْدَ مِنَ الْغَيِّ﴾ البقرة: ٢٥٦

True guidance has become clear from error [2:256]

And He the Most High said:

﴿وَإِنْ يَرَوْا كَلَّآءِةً لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِهَا
وَإِنْ يَرَوْا سَبِيلَ الرُّشْدِ لَا يَتَّخِذُوهُ سَبِيلًا﴾ الأعراف: ١٤٦

And if they see every sign they will not believe in it, and if they see the way of right guidance, they do not take it as the way which they follow. [7:146]

And *Ar-Rushd* (right guidance) is the religion of Islaam, and *Al-Ghayy* (misguidance or error) is the religion of Aboo Jahl and his like.

His saying, “May Allaah direct you to obedience to Him”: this is a tremendous supplication, since if Allaah directs the Muslim to obedience to Him, then he will indeed be fortunate and successful in this world and in the hereafter. And *at-Taa'ab* (obedience) is complying with whatever Allaah has commanded, and avoiding whatever Allaah has forbidden, this is obedience – that he obeys Allaah with regard to His commands such that you do them, and with regard to His prohibitions such that you avoid them, in compliance with the command of Allaah, and seeking the Face of Allaah the Mighty and Majestic, hoping for His reward and fearing His punishment. So whoever is guided to

and granted obedience to Allaah, and is directed to obedience to Allaah, then he will be fortunate and successful in this world and the hereafter.

The Third Treatise

Al-Haneefiyyah (The Straight and True Religion), the Religious Way Followed by Ibraaheem

The Definition of *Al-Haneefiyyah*

إِنَّ الْحَنِيفِيَّةَ: مِلَّةُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ

That *Al-Haneefiyyah* (The straight and true religion) the religious way followed by Ibraaheem¹³

[13]:

His saying, “That *Al-Haneefiyyah* the religious way followed by Ibraaheem”: meaning that which is obligatory that you should know and be aware of is that *Al-Haneefiyyah* is the religious way of Ibraaheem, and *Al-Hanf* in the language means inclination.

So the meaning of *Al-Haneefiyyah* is the religious way which turns away from *shirk* towards *tawheed*. And Ibraaheem ‘*alaibissalaam*’ was a *Haneef*, a Muslim. *Haneef* meaning one who inclined away from *shirk* and turned away from it towards *tawheed* and making his religion purely and sincerely for Allaah the Mighty and Majestic. He the Most High said:

﴿إِنَّ إِبْرَاهِيمَ كَانَ أُمَّةً قَانِتًا لِلَّهِ حَنِيفًا وَلَمْ يَكُ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ﴾ النحل: ١٢٠

Ibraaheem was an *Ummah* (a teacher of good, and a leader followed upon guidance), obedient to Allaah, *Haneef* (upright upon the true religion of Islaam), and he was not from those who associate others with Allaah [16:120]

So *al-Haneef* was one of the attributes of Ibraaheem ‘*alaibissalaam*’ with the meaning that he turned away from *shirk* and inclined away from it totally in favour of *tawheed*, turning totally towards *tawheed* and making worship purely for Allaah the Mighty and Majestic. Allaah the Most High said:

﴿ثُمَّ أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ أَنْ اتَّبِعْ مِلَّةَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ حَنِيفًا
وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ﴾ النحل: ١٢٣

Then we revealed to you that you should follow the religious way of Ibraaheem the *Haneef* (the one who was upon the true religion, *tawheed* turning away from *shirk*). [16:123]

And He the One free of all imperfections said:

﴿ مَا كَانَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ يَهُودِيًّا وَلَا نَصْرَانِيًّا وَلَكِنْ كَانَ حَنِيفًا مُّسْلِمًا وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ ﴾ ﴿١٧﴾

آل عمران: ٦٧

Ibraaheem was neither a Jew nor a Christian, but rather he was a Haneef, a Muslim, and he was not from those who associated others with Allaah [3:67]

These are the tremendous characteristics of Ibraaheem *'alaihissalaam*, from them is that he was Haneef, and that his religious way is Haneefiyyah, and it is the religion which is purely and sincerely for Allaah the Mighty and Majestic which has no *shirk* in it. And Allaah commanded His Prophet *sallallaahu'alaibihwasallam* that he should follow this religious way by His saying:

﴿ ثُمَّ أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ أَنْ اتَّبِعْ مِلَّةَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ حَنِيفًا وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ ﴾ ﴿١٢٣﴾

النحل: ١٢٣

Then We revealed to you that you should follow the religious way of Ibraaheem who was Haneef, and he was not from those who associated others with Allaah. [16:123]

And we have been commanded likewise that we should follow the religious way of Ibraaheem *'alaihissalaam*. He the Most High said:

﴿ هُوَ اجْتَبَاكُمْ وَمَا جَعَلَ عَلَيْكُمْ فِي الدِّينِ مِنْ حَرَجٍ مِّلَّةَ أَبِيكُمْ إِبْرَاهِيمَ هُوَ سَمَّاكُمُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ ﴾

الحج: ٧٨

He has chosen you for His religion, and He has not placed any unbearable difficulty upon you in the religion. So follow the religious way of your forefather Ibraaheem. Allaah it is who has named you the Muslims[22:78]

And it was the religion of all of the Messengers.

However because of the fact that Ibraaheem *'alaihissalaatuwassalaam* is the most excellent one of the Prophets after our Prophet Muhammad *sallallaahu'alaibihwasallam* because he encountered in the path of calling to *tamheed* such torment and trials as were not encountered by anyone else, and he had patience upon that. And because he was the father of the Prophets, because the Prophets who came after him, all of them were descendents of his *'alaihissalaatuwassalaam*. So therefore Al-Haneefiyyah was the religious way of all of the Prophets and it is the call to *tamheed* and the prohibition of *shirk* this was the religious way of all of the Messengers. However because Ibraaheem took notable stances for this religious way, it was ascribed to him and for those who came after him. And the Prophets all of them after him, they were upon the religious way of Ibraaheem, and it is the religion of *tamheed* and *ikblaas* making the religion purely and sincerely for Allaah the Mighty and Majestic.

What is this religious way which our Prophet *sallallaahu'alaihilwasallam* was commanded to follow, and which we have been ordered to follow? It is obligatory upon us that we should be aware of it, because the Muslim, it is obligatory that he should be aware of whatever Allaah has made obligatory upon him, so that he can comply with it, and in order that he will not violate it. It is not sufficient to merely ascribe oneself to it without awareness, it is not sufficient to ascribe oneself to Islaam when he does not know what it is, and he does not know what are those things which nullify Islaam, and what are the religious duties of Islaam and the rulings of Islaam, and it is not sufficient to merely ascribe yourself to the religious way of Ibraaheem and you do not know what it is, and if you are asked about it you say, "I don't know". This is not permissible, it is obligatory that you are well aware of it so that you can proceed upon it upon clear insight and so that you do not violate anything from it.

أَنْ تَعْبُدَ اللَّهَ وَحْدَهُ مَخْلَصًا لَهُ الدِّينَ

Is that you worship Allaah alone, making the religion purely and sincerely for Him¹⁴

[14]:

His saying, “Is that you worship Allaah alone, making the religion purely and sincerely for Him”: this is the religious way of Ibraaheem, that you worship Allaah making the religion purely and sincerely for Him. That you combine two matters: worship and making the worship purely for Allaah. So whoever worships Allaah but does not make the whole of religion purely for Him, then his worship will be nothing at all. So whoever worships Allaah and fasts and performs the *Hajj* (pilgrimage) and prays and performs *Umrah*, and gives in voluntary charity and pays the *Zakaat* and does a great number of acts of obedience, however he does not do so making it purely and sincerely for Allaah the Mighty and Majestic, either because he does that for show or for repute, or because he mixed his deeds with something from *shirk*, such as calling upon other than Allaah, and calling for aid upon other than Allaah, and slaughtering for other than Allaah, then this person will not be *mukhlis* one who is acting purely and sincerely for Allaah in his worship, rather he will be a *mushrik*, and he will not be upon the religious way of Ibraaheem *‘alaibissalaatuwassalaam*.

Many of those who ascribe themselves to Islaam today fall into major *shirk*, into calling upon other than Allaah and worshipping the graves and the tombs and sacrificing for them and performing vows for them and making *tawaaf* around them and seeking blessing from them and calling for aid to the dead and other than that, and they say that they are Muslims. Those people do not know the religious way of Ibraaheem *‘alaibissalaatuwassalaam* which their Prophet Muhammad *sallallaahu‘alaibivasallam* was upon, they do not know of it or they know of it but then contradict it knowingly, and Allaah’s refuge is sought, and this is even worse.

So the religious way of Ibraaheem does not accept *shirk* in any form and whoever mixes his actions with *shirk* then he is not upon the religious way of Ibraaheem, even if he ascribes himself to it and claims that he is a Muslim. So what is obligatory is that you should have awareness of the religious way of Ibraaheem and that you act upon it and that you adhere to it by worshipping Allaah making the whole of the religion purely and sincerely for Him, that there is not in your worship anything from lesser *shirk* or greater *shirk*.

This is the religious way of Ibraaheem *‘alaibissalaam: Al-Haneefiyyah*, which turns away from *shirk* totally and turns to *tamheed* totally, that you worship Allaah making the religion purely and sincerely for Him.