

# WHAT IS ISLAM?

## MAULANA SHAH ABDUL ALEEM SIDDIQUI RA

Alhamdu Lillahi-l-lazee hadaana lihaaza wama kunna linahtadiya lawtaa an hadaan-Allah wahdahu laa na'budu illa lyyah. Nashhadu an-laa Ilaaha Illah wa nash-hadu anna Sayyidana wa Habeebana wa shafee ana wa Maulana Muhammadan 'abduhu wa Rasuluh. Allazee la Shafee'a fil kawnayni siwaa. Amma ba'dufa inna a'azza min qaa ilil qattal. Wabi Qawlihi Yahtadil Muhtadun. Wa Iza quri al gur'an Fastamiu lahu wa ansitu La'allakum turhamun. Auzu Billahi Minashataanrrajeemi Innaddeena Indallahil Islam, Amantu Billahi Sadaqallahu maulanal Azeem. Wa Ballaga Rasuluhun-Nabiyyul Habeebul Kareem. Wa Nahnu ala Zalika minash-shahideena wa shaakireen wal Hamdu Lillahi Rabbil aalameen.

It is really a great pleasure to me that I have an occasion of addressing you again in this very hall where I addressed you on the Eid day. Tonight my subject is "What is Islam?" As far as the word Islam is concerned, it is an Arabic word and the people residing in Canada not knowing the Arabic language may not be knowing the exact meaning and the exact denotation of Islam. So I'm requested to speak on: "What is Islam?"

My sisters and brethren; the beautiful panorama of the heavens and the earth which we see around us carries in its bosom the testimony that it is the creation of a Great Creator. The existence of order and design in the universe which modern science teaches us leads us to the belief in the existence of a Supreme Power and a Supreme Intelligence who is responsible for this complex but orderly design of a Supreme Being who brought it into existence and supplied with all that it needed for its life and growth. In the language of Holy Qur'an, of Rabb-ul-Aalameen.

The universe my sister and brethren as we know, as we know it in science is an organic whole all of whose parts are beautifully and harmoniously interrelated. It is further a domain of Law in which every particle exists and moves in subjection to a prescribed and immutable course of law. Neither the huge planets that swim in the space nor the tiny particles of sand that lie scattered on the sea-shore can deviate even slightly from that course. Their life is a life of a complete submission to the laws of nature in the language of science, and to the laws of God in the language of religion. So really speaking their life is the life of Islam which means submission to Divine Commands. In other words they are Muslims. The Holy Qur'an refers to this truth in the following words:

Walahu aslama man-fissamaawaati wal ardh taw'an wa qarhan wa llayhi yurjaun.

"And to Him submits whatever is in the heaven and the earth willingly or unwillingly and unto Him they will be returned"

.My sisters and brethren; the sole exception to the general rule is man. He is unique in the whole domain of creation in as much as he possesses not only the faculty of reasoning but also his free will. This makes his course of action and the pattern of his behaviour unpredictable. You can predict the action of the sun because it functions under an immutable law and possesses no freedom to deviate from it but you cannot do this same thing in the case of man. The activity of all the things of the universe is mechanical but not so that of man. He can choose his ends and he can prescribe the means. For that purpose, he relies on his reason. But in that way, he commits mistakes. Side by side he is achieving great things and ultimately lends himself in confusion.

My sisters and brethren, please pay attention. The same faculty, which is his asset, becomes the instrument of his undoing solely because of its wrong use. The human intellect can guide him only to certain limits because it works on the basis of known facts to discover the unknown things. It can serve efficiently to some extent in the domain of the physical reality but when it enters the realm of fundamental truth where the first requirement is a the possession of a comprehensive knowledge of the past, the present and the future, it can give us only conjectures and inference. In its very nature it is incapable of discovering ultimate truths of life. The human soul is however in dead earnest to know those ultimate truths because without them the real meaning of life remains unexplained and the true code of human endeavour remains unfixed. Science cannot supply us with that, because it deals only with the immediate physical reality; philosophy cannot give it because it works on postulates and inference.

It is at this stage my sisters and brethren that the human soul cries for guidance from the great beyond of the great unknown. It yearns to have a torch, which might illuminate its path, and a guide who might supply the guidance based on sure and certain knowledge. Humanity needs such a sure and comprehensive guidance and the same Loving Creator who sustains us and the universe in the matter of physical needs has also taken it upon himself to supply this vital need.

Human history bears testimony to the fact that religion has existed since the beginning of life of humanity on this earth. This shows that the Beneficent God supplies guidance to mankind simultaneously with its creation so that it might not have to grope in the dark and might walk the way of the law in conformity with its nature. Those who are appointed by God to deliver that guidance are in the terminology of religion known as Prophets and Messengers and Apostles. They themselves received that guidance in the form of divine revelation and when they presented it to the people in a written form it was known as the scripture or revealed books. The contents of those scriptures have always been laws, which the Creator and the Sustainer of the universe had appointed for the right life of man.

The aim of guidance had always been to teach man to submit to the divine law which attitude is expressed in Arabic by the term Islam. Divine Guidance wants man to act and behave in accordance with the law of its true nature and free being even as the rest of the creation conforms to the laws of nature in a mechanical way. In one word we can say that the Divine Guidance wants man to be Muslim. The Holy Qur'an says:

"The nature made by God in whom He has created man, There is no altering in Allah's creation. That is the right religion, But most men do not know". This guidance my sisters and brethren from Almighty God was not confined to one group or community but was sent to all nations and all races of the world. The blessing of God was bestowed universally as the Holy Qur'an reports:

Wa In Min Ummatin Illa Khalaafeha Nazeer "And there has not been a nation to whom a Warner was not sent"

So my sisters and brethren, history has preserved the names of some of them while the names and works of many others have now been forgotten by the people. Among those whose names are still remembered, most of you also may be knowing them are: Adam, Nuh, Ibrahim, Ismail, Ishaq, Yacoob, Musa and Isa, the last of the line was Muhammad Sallallahu Taala alaihi wa ala alihi wa as-habihi wabaaraka wa sallama wa ala Jamee-il anbiyaa-i wal mursaleen.

He, that is the great Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu alaihi wasallam appeared in the seventh century of the Christian era, called humanity back to the path of the former Prophets and presented to the world the Holy Qur'an which contains the law taught by the former prophets in their perfect and most comprehensive form. People had named the teachings of the previous teachers variously as Judaism, Christianity etc. The last Prophet reminded them of the real and original and meaningful name namely Islam. He declared in the words of the Holy Qur'an:

Innaddeena Indallahil Islam.

"Lo the religion with Allah to Islam"

That is the surrender to His Will and Guidance. Then again Almighty Allah says:

Millata Abeekum Ibrahim Hiwa sammakumul Muslimeen.

"The faith of your father Ibrahim is yours. He has named you an Muslims"

Again, Almighty Allah says and more emphatically says:

Maa Kaana Ibrahimu Yahudiyyan wallaa Nasraaniyyan walaa Kin Kaana Haneefan Muslima.

"Ibrahim was not a Jew nor yet a Christian but he was an upright man who suffrendered to Allah. He was Muslim"

The final Prophet that is the great Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam raised religion from the level of sectarianism and taught that the Divine Religion wherever found and whomsoever preached had always been the faith namely Islam which as I have already emphasized twice means submission to and conformity with the laws appointed by Almighty God.

## **THE SPIRITUAL CHAIN OF SUCCESSION / SPIRITUAL GENEALOGY**

1. Hazrat Muhammad Mustapha Sallallahu Alaihe wassallam
2. Hazrat Ali Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
3. Hazrat Hasan Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
4. Shaikh Habibbe Nil Ajamiyi Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
5. Shaikh Dawood Datt Ta'irri Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
6. Shaikh Marouf Fil Karoukhiyi Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
7. Shaikh Sirriyi Nis Saqa - Tiyyi Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
8. Shaikh Sayyidit twa-l-fatti Abil Qasim Junaid Baghdadi Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
9. Shaikh Abi Bakr Nis Shibli Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
10. Shaikh Abdil Wahidi Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
11. Shaikh Abdil Azeezi Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
12. Shaikh Abil Farahi Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
13. Shaikh Abil Hasani Aliyil Qurayshi Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
14. Shaikh Abi Saidi Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
15. Sayyidina Shaikh Abdul Quadeer Jilani Ghawse Azaam Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
16. Shaikh Sayyidi Abdil Razzaq Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
17. Shaikh Sayyidil Abdil Swalihil Faqeer Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
18. Shaikh Sayyidi Ahmad Shah Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
19. Shaikh Sayyidi Shihabbiddin Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
20. Shaikh Sayyidi Shamsid Deene Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
21. Shaikh Sayyidi Alaa-id Deen Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
22. Shaikh Sayyidi Nouri Muhammad Shah Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
23. Shaikh Sayyidi Abdil Jalaalis Sahra-yi Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
24. Shaikh Sayyidi Bahaawal Shee Qalandar Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
25. Shaikh Abil Ma'ali Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou

26. Shaikh Muhkamid Deeni Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
27. Shaikh Shah Amir Baa Laa yayru Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
28. Shaikh Abdil Lateef Fil Bourriyyi Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
29. Shaikh Durweishi Muhammadin Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
30. Shaikh Shah Ahmad Shah Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
31. Shaikh Abdil Lateefi Thani Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
32. Shaikh Madhe Shah Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
33. Shaikh Sayyiddi A'azam Ali Shah Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
34. Shaikh Sayyidi Muhammad Ghawse Ali Shah Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
35. Shaikh Maulana Muhammad Abdil Hakeem Al Quaderi Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
36. Shaikh Ahmad Mukhtaar Siddiqui Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
37. Shaikh Tareeqat Maulana Shah Muhammad Abdul Aleem Siddiqui Al Quaderi Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
38. Hazrat Mubalighe Islam Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani Siddiqui Al Quaderi Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhou
39. Hazrat Maulana Anas Noorani Siddiqui.

### **Shijrah Mobarak Silsilah Aliya Naqsha Bandiya**

Fazal kar ya rab Muhammad Mustapha (SAW) ke waste

Sidq de siddique Akbar ba wafa kai waste.

Hazrate soleman o qasim Hazrate Jafar Imaam

Ma'arifat dai ba yazide haq nouma kai waste.

Boul Hassen aur Bou Ali ke sadqe dai House ne Amal

Kwaja Yousouf Shahre yaar Atqiya ke wasti.

Hazrate meere kalaal wa khwaja Baha-ud-Deen Naqshaband  
Khwaja Yacoob charki peshwa kai wastai.

Kwaja Ahraar-o-Dour saish Muhammad kai waste  
Bakhsh dai amkanghi marde koda kai waste.

Azpae sheikh Tariqat Baqee Billa ho ata  
Manzile Irfan Imaame auliya ke waste.

Hazrate Ahmad Mujaddid Alf Saani kai toufail  
Ho ata raahe haaqeeqat haq nouma kai waste.

Khwaja maa'soom kai sadqai afw-o-dar gouzar  
Baksh dai sarai gunaah issbe riya kai waste.

Sheik Saifuddeen kai sadqai sa khawat ho ata  
Sayyide Nourai Muhammad Mae liqaa kai waste.

Az toufail mirza mazhar janne jannan baksh dai  
Shaahe shahaan shash ghoulam Mourtaza kai wastai.

Bou shaida shahe Najjibullah sayyide Ghawse Ali  
Ho shifa Abdul Hakeem parsaa kai waste.

Ahmade Moukhtar kai sadqe main ham ko houkam dai

Ilme hafadai Alimme badshaah kai wastai.

Noore Imaam Noore Irfan Noore Qalb-o-Zikr dai

Shaahi Noorani Mobalighe Rehnouma kai wastai.

### **Tasbeeh Khatam Khwajgaan**

Every Thursday night, it is recommended to congregate in one place and the leader of the assembly will start with the recitation of the khatam khwajgaan in this specific manner: He will begin by reciting a Fateha bestowing all of the reward (Isalesawab) to our Beloved Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaih Wasalam, to the Khulafa-e-Rashidin [Abu Bakar Siddique (R.A.), Hazrat Omar (R.A.), Hazrat Osman (R.A.), Hazrat Ali (R.A.)], and to all of the sahabas, to all of the walis. After this fateha, the following tasbeehs must be recited:

a.) Recite surah Fatihah 7 times.

b.) Recite surah Alam Nashrahlaka Sadrak 79 times.

c.) Recite Darood Sharif SWALLAL LAHOU ALAN-NABIYYIL UMMEE WA ALIHEE SWALLA LAHOU ALAIHI WA SALLAMA SUALATAN WA SALAMAN ALAIKA WA ALA ALIKA WA ASHABIKA YAA SAYYIDEE TAA RASOULALLAH 100 times.

d.) Recite surah Ikhlas- QOULHOUWALLAHOUWAHAD- 1000 times.

\*\*\*\*\*Recite each of the following tasbeehs 100 times;

e.) Allahoumma Yaa Moujibaddawaat

f.) Allahoumma Yaa Qaadiyal Haajaat

g.) Allahoumma Yaa Daafi'al Baliyaat

h.) Allahoumma Yaa Kafiyal Mouhimmaat

i.) Allahoumma Yaa Rafiaddarajaat

j.) Allahoumma Yaa Moufaatihal Abwaab

k.) Allahoumma Yaa Shafiyal Amraad

l.) Allahoumma Yaa Mousabbibal Asbaad

m.) Allahoumma Yaa Munazzi Lal Bakat

n.) Allahoumma Yaa Halal Moushkilaat

- o.) Allahoumma Yaa Ghayaasal Moustagheeseen
- p.) Allahoumma Yaa Khairar Raziqeen
- q.) Allahoumma Yaa Khairan Nasireen
- r.) Allahoumma Yaa Arhamar Rahimeen

AMEEN AL-FATIHA