



# Pillars of the Tawhid Faith

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Rabeea Aboufakher

# Contents

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- Historical introduction
  - The role of the mind
  - Divine justice
  - Reincarnation
  - The seven pillars of Tawhid
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# Historical Introduction

## *AL-HAKIM*

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- The sixth Fatimid Caliph who ruled the Fatimid state from 996 to 1021 AD
  - Was born in 985 and became Caliph when he was only 11 years old. Three months later he started sending preachers for the coming of the new faith
  - The city of Cairo in Egypt was the capital of his state which extended to the Arabian Peninsula and to northern Syria and included most of North Africa
  - He built Dar Al-Hikma (wisdom institute) which was the biggest library in the world at that time
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# Historical Introduction

## *AL-HAKIM*

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- He was the first to free the slaves and to equalize men and women
  - Is considered the creator (Imam) of the Tawhid faith which revolutionized the understanding of many spiritual and social concepts in previously known faiths
  - He disappeared in a mysterious way during one of his usual journeys to a mountain called Al-Muqattam
  - Many historians have written conflicting stories about his life and disappearance but we know most of it was falsified by historians who worked for “Abbassis”, his political enemies
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# Historical Introduction

## *The Luminaries (Al-Hudud)*

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- Hamza Ibn Ali (represents the universal **mind**; Al-Aql)
  - Ismail Al-Tamimi (represents the universal **soul**; Al-Nafs)
  - Muhammad Ibn Wahb (represents the **word**; Al-Kalima)
  - Salama Al-Sameri (represents the **cause**; Al-Sabiq)
  - Ali Ibn Ahmad; Bahaa Al-Deen (represents the effect; Al-Tali)
  - Al-Hudud are alluded to in a verse in the Quran that says: “His **will**, when he **desires** a thing, is to **say** to it, ‘**Be**’, and it *is*.”
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# Historical Introduction

## *The divine call*

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- Al-Hakim announced the official (public) beginning of the divine call in 1017, although he had preachers secretly inviting people to enter the new faith for 21 years before that
  - He disappeared in 1021, and the top four luminaries disappeared soon after that promising they will come back to bring justice to the world
  - The fifth luminary (Bahaa Al-deen) continued calling people to the faith under supervision from Hamza until 1043 when he terminated the divine call after it fulfilled its purpose
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# Historical Introduction

## *Al-Hikma letters*

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- A sacred collection of 111 letters sent to different groups of people calling them to the new faith
  - It was written by the first (Hamza), second (Ismael), and fifth (Bahaa Al-Deen) luminaries, largely by the latter
  - The luminaries ordered the preachers to offer the letters only to people qualified to understand it and willing to comply with its teachings
  - It contains verses from all the other holy books, especially Quran, Bible, and Torah with new explanations revealing many of the hidden facts in those books
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# The Role of the Mind

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- God created the Universal Mind first. He is the closest to God in all the creation
  - The only way to reach God (the ultimate truth) in Tawhid is to open our minds to become more and more similar to the Universal Mind
  - This means that we can not fulfill our mission without the use of our minds. *Tawhid is not about blind beliefs that are not logical*
  - However, we always have to remember that our minds are partial and are not able to comprehend the impartial and absolute. *Do not reject something just because you can not imagine it or see it*
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# The Role of the Mind

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- The human mind is characterized mainly by the ability to discriminate right from wrong, and to analyze data to reach conclusions logically
  - *Conscience* is a very important apparatus. It's the sound of right emanating from the inner mind which accompanies the soul
  - Most of us are only using a small portion of our minds' abilities. We all have the potential to expand our understanding of the universal facts and secrets simply by complying with the universal mind teachings
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# Divine Justice in Tawhid

## *The cosmic law*

- An extremely important concept in Tawhid is God's justice and fairness. *Absolutely nothing in the universe is unfair*
- God created the universe and created the cosmic law with it. The universal mind is responsible for applying the law that is flawless
- Any and everything that happens to us in every day's life is part of the universal plan. At the same time, it's a test of faith. The way we react determines what happens next
- In such a great universe governed by a perfect law, *there is no place for coincidences*

# Reincarnation in Tawhid

## *Introduction*

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- Reincarnation is the transition of the soul from a damaged physical body to a new one upon death
  - We are ageless divine souls having a material experience in our long journey towards the ultimate truth
  - The journey to perfection and purity is long. Since the physical body's life span is very short compared to eternity, the soul needs a large number of bodies to complete the trip
  - In addition, reincarnation is the only way to make the divine justice law applicable
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# Reincarnation in Tawhid

## *Reincarnation and religion*

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- Reincarnation is an essential concept in most far eastern religions, especially Buddhism
  - The Jewish book of Kabala clearly mentions reincarnation
  - Christ alluded to the concept in the Bible (when he said that John the Baptist is the prophet Elijah who lived centuries before Christ), and didn't refute it when he was asked indirectly by the apostles
  - Quran has numerous verses that can't be explained logically without believing in reincarnation
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# Reincarnation in Tawhid

## *Reincarnation and Science*

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- A number of scientists in Europe and America concentrated on proving the presence of the soul and the concept of reincarnation in an objective way
  - Their efforts were successful and produced a large number of experiments, books and journals. However, most of us are ignorant of this work. You can review some of their work by a simple internet search
  - Some of the great men who had personal experience with reincarnation are Emerson, Dante, Descartes, Swedenberg, Voltaire, and Hugo among others
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# The Seven Pillars

## 1) Truthfulness

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- The first and greatest virtue in Tawhid is heart and tongue truthfulness
  - It requires remembering God's presence in every single deed we do, every word we say and every thought we think
  - It implies having a constant relationship (Silah) with God and represents the true prayer in the Tawhid faith
  - However, until we reach the point of constant prayer (Silah), we should keep praying in the traditional way as well (by reading anything spiritual)
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# The Seven Pillars

## 2) Fellowship

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- This term has many implications including protection, support, charity, sacrifice, forgiveness, respect...etc.
  - It can be summarized in one concept: *Unconditional Love*. Treat others as you would like to be treated
  - A true “muahhid” behaves this way with all people regardless of their religion, color, age, nationality...etc.
  - However, the term is also used in the *Hikma letters* to emphasize a special bond between believers, a spiritual relationship far stronger than any material relationship we’ve experienced before
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# The Seven Pillars

## 3) *Abandoning false beliefs*

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- A crucial and yet an under-emphasized pillar of our faith
  - All religions are messages to mankind that have a common source, common major teachings and a common goal
  - Some teachings in all religions are misunderstood by their followers. Many religious people around the world believe that the followers of other religions are wrong
  - In this case, religion becomes an obstacle in the way of enlightenment
  - *Abandon the beliefs handed to you by other people,* especially when they contradict the principle of unconditional love
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# The Seven Pillars

## 4) *Avoidance of confusion*

- Ancient and modern history is full of false prophets and preachers who came up with their own faiths or teachings to achieve personal goals
- Others have their own interpretations of scriptures that can make seekers confused about which path to follow
- This pillar emphasizes the importance of examining every idea under the light of the mind (which is the only way to paradise as Al-Hikma tells us)
- The best way to avoid confusion is by implementing the Tawhid teachings in one's life and listening to God's guidance. *God will never let us down if we have enough faith*

# The Seven Pillars

## 5) *Monotheism or Unitarism*

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- Believing in one God is the simplest explanation of this concept, but it includes several deeper ideas
  - Looking at each creature is a way of looking at the creator. *Try to see his beauty and intelligence in everything*
  - The word universe comes from two Latin words: “una” which means one, and “verse” which means song. Universe means one song; it’s a unity
  - The “muahhid” will reach the truth when he realizes himself as a part of this unity instead of a being separate from the rest of the creation
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# The Seven Pillars

## 6) *Acceptance*

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- In a perfect world there are no coincidences. Whatever happens, good or bad, is either a result of our previous deeds or a test of our faith, and is usually both
  - Acceptance of God's will is an expression of absolute faith in God's mercy and justice
  - *Look for an opportunity to learn from every obstacle or problem you face*
  - Each time you feel compelled to complain, thank God for what you already have
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# The Seven Pillars

## 7) *Submission*

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- Submission means surrendering to God's will and having absolute faith in his infinite wisdom. This should be accompanied by hard work not laziness
  - A "muahhid" knows that God is with him at all times, guiding his steps and lighting his path. He knows that problems and obstacles are unavoidable lessons that he has to learn in this world
  - Armed with this knowledge, a "muahhid" is always happy and peaceful. He has purified his soul from feelings such as anger, stress, fear, worry...etc.
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# Summary

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## To be a “muahhid”

- Be truthful in your heart and tongue
  - Have unconditional love for all mankind
  - Abandon the false beliefs handed to you by others
  - Don't get confused; listen to your intuitions
  - Realize that you are a part of a unity rather than a separate person
  - Thank God each time you feel compelled to complain
  - Work hard, but surrender to God's will
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