THE BOOK OF BASIC SHIA FND

BELIEFS

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The Prophet (P.B.U.H)

Through the prayer the servant reaches the highest level, as the prayer is a glorifying, a declaration of His oneness, an extolling of His praise, majesty and holiness, a declaration (of the truth) and a summons (to the truth).

Hazrat Imam Sadiq (A.S)

The dearest of activities to Allah, the Grand and Glorious, is the prayer, and that is the last testimony of Prophets and his family.

تعارف WAZU INTRODUCTION

He whose Wazu are abundant, his prayer beautiful, the Zakat of his weaith paid, his anger repelled, his tongue confined, his sins sought forgiveness for, while he wishes well for the household of his Prophet he has perfected the realities of faith, and the doors of the Garden are open to him.



INAMA YOREED ULLAHO LY-YOZ HIB ANQUM RAJEIS AHYL-BAIT WA-YTAHIRA-QUM TATAHIRA





1-MUHARAM-UL-HERAM

01st. The lofty Sheikh Hasan bun Zain-ul-Abideen the known as Shaheed As-Sani died in year 1011 A.H. He was one of the Shia great figures. **02nd.** Imam Hussain (a.s) arrived (Reaches) in Kerbala 61A.H.

03rd. Salvation of the Prophet Yusuf (peace be upon him) from the well occurred in this month, when there came a travellers and they sent their water-drawer and he let down his bucket and came out together with the bucket.

03rd. Umar bun Sa'ad arrived in Kerbala on the third of Muharram with four thousand warriors to fight Imam Hussain peace be upon him.

07th. Water was stopped for Kafla. Prophet Moosa (a.s) talked with Allah 10th. YomeAshura Shahadat-e-Imam Hussain (a.s) 61A.H.

12th. Soyam - Hazrat Imam Hussain (a.s) 61A.H & Shuhada e Kerbala.

18th. Tahvil-e-Qibla from Kaaba 2A.H.

25th. (Martyrdom) Shahadat of Imam Zain-ul-Abedin (a.s) 95AH.

27th. Shahadat of Maisum-e-Tammar.

2-SAFAR-UL-MAZAFAR

01st. Ahley Heram in Darbar-e-Yazid 61A.H.....Battle of Siffin 37A.H Heads of the Martyrs of Kerbala brought to Damascus 61AH.

07th. Waladat of Imam Musa Kazim (a.s) at Abwa (a place between Mecca and Medina) 128A.H.

09th. Victory of Jang-e-Naherwan won by Hazrat Ali (a.s) 40A.H.

13th. Shahadat of Bibi Sakeena (s.a) 61A.H.

17th. Shahadat of Imam Ali Raza (a.s) 203A.H.

20th. 40th day (Chehlum) Imam Hussain (a.s) (Martyrs of Kerbala) 61AH (Hazrat Bibi Zainab(s.a) was held for one year after that Bibi (s.a) come out of being held and Bibi (s.a) started to do Majalis and Matam 62A.H. 24th. Shahadat of Bibi Zainab (s.a) 62A.H.

28th. Shahadat of Prophet Muhammad (P.b.u.h) 11 A.H Shahadat of Imam Hasan (a.s) 50 A.H.

3-RABI-UL-AWAL

01st. Day of Hijrat. The Prophet left Mecca leaving Hazrat Ali (a.s) sleeping in his, (The Prophet's), bed (622A.D). **04th.** The Prophet emerged from the cave Heera and set out for Medina.

B

05th. Shahadat of Janab Masooma-e-Qum (s.a) sister of Imam Raza (a.s).

08th. Shahadat of Hazrat Imam Hasan Askari (a.s) 260A.H.

09th. Eid-Shujaa (open SOG) Ahl-ul-Bait changed their mourning dress 61A.H.

10th. Death (Shahadat) of Abdul Muttalib 44 years before Hijrat (497A.D). 17th. Waladat of Prophet Mohammad (P.b.u.h) 52B.H (570A.D) Waladat of Imam Jaffar Sadiq (a.s) 83A.H. (702 A.D).

18th. Waladat of Janab-Umey-Kulsum (s.a) Sister of Imam Hussain (a.s) 9A.H.

26th. Shahadat of Hazrat Abu-Talib (a.s) 10A.H.

4-RABI-UL-AKHIR

08th. The birth of Hazrat Imam Hasan Askari (a.s) 232A.H (847A.D). Battle of Jumal 36A.H.

5-JAMAD-UL-AWWAL

05th. Waladat of Hazrat Bibi Zainub (s.a). 15th. The birth (Waladat) of Hazrat Imam Zain-ul-Abedin (a.s) 37A.H (658A.D).

6-JAMAD-ULAKHIR

03rd. Shahadat of Hazrat Janab-e-Fatima Zahara (s.a) (the beloved daughter of the Holy Prophet) 11A.H (632A.D). 20th. Waladat of Janab-e-Fatima Zahara (s.a) 8 years before Hijrat (615A.D).

7-RAJAB-UL-MARAJAB

01st. Waladat of Hazrat Imam Mohammad Baqir (a.s) 57A.H. 03rd. Shahadat of Hazrat Imam Ali Naqi (a.s) 253A.H. 05th. Waladat of Hazrat Imam Ali Naqi (a.s) 214A.H. 09th. Waladat of Hazrat Ali Asghar (a.s) 60A.H. 10th. Waladat of Hazrat Mohammad Taqi (a.s) 195A.H. 13th. Waladat of Hazrat Ali (a.s) Amir-ul-Momineen Malud-e-Kaaba (599 A.D) (22B.H). 16th. Imamat day of Hazrat Imam Moosa Kazim (a.s) 148A.H. 20th. Waladat of Janab-e-Sakeena (s.a) (daughter of Imam Hussain (a.s)) 54A.H. 22nd. Niaz-e-Hazrat Imam Jaffar Sadiq (a.s). 24th. Imam Ali (a.s) Conquered Khaiber. C

25th. Shahadat of Hazrat Imam Moosa Kazim 183A.H (793A.D). 26th. Shahadat of Abu Talib <u>(a.s)</u>, the father of Imam Ali <u>(a.s)</u> (Riwayat). 26th. The Beginning of the Prophetic Mission (Bessat-e-Rasool).

27th. Meraj Sharif 12B.T (621A.D).

28th. Departure from Madina Hazrat Imam Hussain 60A.H.

8-SHABAN-UL-MUAZUM

01st. Waladat of Janab-e-Zainab (sister of Imam Hussain (a.s)) 6A.H (627A.D).

02nd. Wajib fasting in Ramazan (621A.D).

03rd. Waladat of Hazrat Imam Hussain (a.s) 4A.H (626A.D).

04th. Waladat of Hazrat Gazi Abbas Allamdar-e-Hussain 26 A.H, 654A.D 05th. Death (Wafat) of Hazrat Feeza (r.a).

11th. Waladat of Janab Ali Akbar (a.s) son of Hazrat Imam Hussain (a.s) 42A.H.

14th. 14th after passing the day, night is Shab-e-Barat.

15th. Waladat of Hazrat Imam Akhir-ul-Zaman Mehdi (a.s) 225A.H (869A.D).

9-RAMAZAN-UL-MUBARAK

01st. Bait-ul-Mall started Hazrat Imam Ali Raza (a.s). Hazrat Ibrahim (a.s) received Imamat.

05th. Coin s bearing Imam Raza's (a.s) name were released & Masoom pledged allegiance to Imam Raza (a.s).

06th. Taurait (Torah) was revealed to Hazrat Moosa (a.s)

10th. Death of Hazrat Umm-ul-Momineen Bibi Khadeeja (s.a), the first wife of the Holy Prophet and, first lady in Islam 10A.H.

12th. The Injil (Evangel) was revealed to Hazrat Eesa (a.s).

15th. Waladat of Hazrat Imam Hasan (a.s) 3A.H (625 A.D).

17th. Victory of Battle of Badar 2A.H.

18th. The Zuboor was revealed to Hazrat Dawood (a.s). In night Laylatul Qadar.

19th. The first Imam Hazrat Imam Ali (a.s) zurbat (wounded) in the mosque at Kufa whilst Praying 40A.H (652 A.D).

20th. Conquest (Victory) of Mecca (Fattah-e-Mecca) Hazrat Ali (a.s) climbs the shoulder of Prophet & breaks idols (majasmy) Kaaba cleaned. 21st. Shahadat of Hazrat Imam Ali (a.s) 40A.H (652 A.D).

22nd. After passing the day, Night is Shab-e-Laila-tul-Qadar. The Quran was revealed to Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (P.b.u.h).

29th Ramazan Battle of Hunayn Victory.

D

10-SHAWWAL-UL-MUKARAM

01st. Eid-ul-Fitir (after Fasting end of Ramazan) (621A.D).

08th. Holy shrines in Jannat-ul-Baqi destroyed by Ibne Soud in 1343A.H (1925 A.D).

10th. Ghaibat (occultation) of Hazrat Imam Saheb-uz-Zaman began 329A.H (933A.D)

15th. Shahadat of Hazrat Imam Jaffar Sadiq (a.s) 148A.H. Shahadat of Hazrat Humza (r.a) 3A.H.

11-ZILKAD

01st. Waladat of Hazrat Masooma-Qum (s.a). 11th. Waladat of Hazrat Imam Ali Raza (a.s) 153A.H. 25th. Waladat of Hazrat Eesa (a.s). Waladat of Hazrat prophet Ibrahim (a.s). 29th. Shahadat of Imam Mohammed Taqi (a.s) 220A.H (865 A.D).

12-ZILHAJJ-AT-HERAM

01st. Marriage (Aqad) of Hazrat Janab-e-Fatima (s.a) 2 A.H.

05th. Wafat of Hazrat Abu-zur-Gafari (r.a).

07th. Shahadat of Hazrat Imam Mohammad Baqir (a.s) 116 A.H, 733 A.D 08th. Hazrat Imam Hussain (a.s) started travelling Mecca to Kerbala

60A.H.

09th. Shahadat of Hazrat Muslim-bin-Aquil (a.s) 60A.H.

10th. Eid-ul-Zoha (BakraEid)

15th. Waladat of 10th Imam Ali An-Naqi (a.s) (Rawaet).

18th. Eid-ul-Ghadeer 10A.H.

23rd. Shahadat of the sons of Hazrat Muslim-Ibn-Aquil 60A.H.

24th. Eid-ul-Mobahila 10A.H.

29th. Shab-e-Rukhsati of Hazrat Janab-e-Fatima (s.a) 2A.H.

ہم علیٰ والے ہیں سُن کیں زمانے والے خاک ہو جائیں کے خود ہم کو مثانے والے یا علیٰ کہہ کے گذر جاتے ہیں طوفا نوں سے پر چم حضرت عبائل اُٹھانے والے رہنہ جراللہ الڈخ میں الذکر یہر For: Shia'a Muslim Kids (CONTENTS) Age Obligatory start is (Male 15 years old and female 9 years old)

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IN THE NAME OF ALLAH MOST GRACIOUS MOST MERCIFUL AND MOST KIND FUL.

Bismillah:

Bismillah before (1) Eating (2) Drinking (3) Sleeping (4) working
(5) Performing Wazu (6) Praying (7) Doing Homework (8) Getting in a Car (9) Riding a Bike (10) . . . Can you think of other examples?
Age Obligatory start is (Male 15 years old and female 9 years old)

لكم, [CREED] KALEMA

Bismillah Hir-Rahman Nir-Rahim

La Ai-Laha Illal-Laho (O) Mohammad-ur-Rasool-lul-Lahe (O) Aliyuw-Waliyul-lahe Wasiyo-Rasool-lil-Lahe; Wa-Khalifa-tu-ho Bila-Fasl (O)

ڮٳؚڵ؋ٳ؇ۜٳؾ*؋ؖ*ؙڕۜٞۯڛؙۘۊڷٳڛٙؗۼؚػؚؾۜٞۊؘڸؾؙٳڛٙؗ؋ۅؘڝؚؾؙۯڛؙؗۊڸٳڶڷڣۅؘڿڶۣؽۊٞؾ؋ۑؚڵٳ؋ڞٙٳۣؖؗؗ

MEANING OF KALEMA

a) La Ilaha Illal-Laho: There is no god but Allah.

b) Muhammad Ur Rasool-ullah: Our Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (Pbuh) is the Messenger of Allah.

c) Aliy-yun Waliyul-lah: Hazrat Ali (a.s) is the Wali (beloved) of Allah.

d) Wasiy-yo 0 Rasulillah: Hazrat Ali (a.s) is the successor of the Prophet.

e) Wa-Khalifa-tu-ho Bila-Fasl: And he is the First Khalifa of the Prophet.

SALWAT

ALLAHUMMA-SALLE-A'LAA MUHAMMADIN WA-AALE MUH'AMMAD.

MEANING OF SALWAT O Allah! Send Thy Blessings to Our Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (Pbuh) and his Ahlulbait (a.s).

2

(Five Principles of Islam) Islam consists of Usool-e-Deen

Towhead (Monotheism) **Adil** (Justice) Nabuwwat (Prophet hood) **Imamate** (Vice regency) **Oavamaat** (Resurrection) توحيد * عدار ید مسر امامت *

1) Towhead (Monotheism) The absolute focus of Islamic piety is Allah, the supreme, all knowing, all-powerful, and above all, all-merciful Allah. Say: He, Allah, is one. Allah is He on whom all depend. He begets not, nor is He begotten. And none is like Him. (112)" [1] He is One, not in terms of number; Everlasting, without duration; Standing, without supports. He is not of a kind that other kinds should be on a par with Him, nor should an object that objects be similar to Him. Because of His tremendousness places encompass Him not, because of His majesty measures gauge Him not, and because of His grandeur standards judge Him not. Impossible it is for imaginations to fathom Him, understandings to comprehend Him or minds to imagine Him. Powers of reason with lofty aspiration despair of contriving to comprehend Him, oceans of knowledge run dry without alluding to Him in depth, and the subtleties of disputants fall from loftiness to pettiness in describing His power".

The Most Fundamental of all beliefs in Islam is the Towhead or Oneness of Allah. The fact that He is, and will be forever. He is everywhere at all times, no person or object in this universe can hide from Him. He is the perfect Creator and everything in this Universe has been created by Him. Putting somebody or something equal to Allah is the biggest of sins and is called "shirk". Ascribing a shape to him would be a lie since our limited minds and imaginations cannot perceive such a thing and would give us a false representations .He is the One and Only and is Absolutely independent of anything and everything that exists.

2) Adl (Justice) Adl is the belief that Allah is just and fair and that each individual will be judged by his deeds on the day of judgement. This belief strengthens the fact that every individual has control over their destiny and that Allah has not predetermined our fate. We have been given two paths to choose from, the good and the bad, and Allah has given every human the ability to distinguish between right and wrong. Those who do evil things and then believe that it is Allah's will, they are gravely Allah determines if we do good or bad things would be ascribing a lie to him and thus rendering a persons faith void. A person who believes that his/her bad deeds are their own doing or the devil's (Iblees's) misleading suggestions, they will more likely be inclined towards the right path.

3) Nabuwwat (Prophet Hood) Nabuwwat is the belief in Allah's Prophets and that all Prophets are better than all humans and sinless (Masoom). Prophet Hood began by Hazrat Adam and ended with Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH). Prophet Muhammad is known as the seal of prophets. He is the last Prophet and there will absolutely be no one after him. And of those whom we have created are a people who guide with the truth and thereby they do justice. (7:181)

The Prophets were sent to mankind as guides. Their purpose was to deliver the message of Allah. Of all the prophets not one rejected the Divine message of Allah. Unlike certain beliefs in some Religions in the world today, it is a fact that all Prophets established Religion based on the One and Only Allah. The Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) was revealed the last Holy book sent by Allah; The Quran. His teachings are complete and cover almost every aspect of life and death. Islam is similar to Christianity and Judaism. Infect they are said to be the Religion of Hazrat Ibrahim, from whom Prophet Muhammad, Jesus Christ and Moses are descended. Christianity and Judaism are widely mentioned in the Quran. Since Nabuwwat is the fundamental belief of Religion it is important to believe in everything the Prophets say for their words are the truth as mentioned in the above verse.

4) Imamat (Vice regency) And We made them Imams who guided (people) by Our command, and We revealed to them the doing of good and the keeping up of prayer and the giving of the alms, and us (alone) did they serve. (21:73)

Before the death of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) He appointed from among his Ahl-e-bayt an Imam who we believe is Hazrat Ali (a.s). Though some sects in Islam dispute this, it is clearly mentioned in history books as the event called Eid-e-Gadir. This was when the Prophet gave his last sermon and he Appointed Hazrat Ali to be his Successor. No one can dispute his ability to lead the Muslim Ummah as he was the closest to the Prophet. The Prophet said Himself: "Mankuntu maula fa haza Ali un maula" (for whom ever I am maula, Ali is his maula). Or on another occasion the Prophet said: "You are to me like Haroon was to Musa". The linage of the Imams continues from Hazrat Ali (a.s) to Imam Mehdi 4

(a.s) who was the last and 12th Imam. Imam Mehdi (a.s) is alive and will return to us and guide us all to the right path. After the Prophets it is only the Imams who can guide us and their decision on a matter is a decision from Allah. The Imams are also sinless (Masoom). The names of the **Twelve Imams are as Follows: -**

	12 IMAM D				
1	Imam Ali (a.s) D	7	Imam Musa-e-Kazim (a.s) D		
2	Imam Hasan (a.s) D	8	Imam Raza (a.s) D		
3	Imam Hussain (a.s) D	9	Imam Ali Naqi (a.s) D		
4	Imam Zain-ul-Abedin (a.s) D	1	Imam Muhammad Taqi(a.s) D		
		0			
5	Imam Baqir (a.s) D	11	Imam Hasan Askari (a.s) D		
6	Imam Jaffar-us Sadiq (a.s) D	1	Imam-e-Zamana (a.s) D		
		2			

المنافقة المستقلم المستقل المحتشن المحتشين المنتقل المالية المستقل المستق د دق امکانظیم آیا علی دَصَاء یا مُکن تَعْتِی یا عَلی تَقْتِی الْحُسْنِ عَسَّرِی الْحُرَدِينَ مُحَدَّ مَهْدِي لْهُمَّ صَلَّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَ إَلِ مُحَمَّدٍ

Fourteen Masoom's Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (Pbuh) Hazrat Bibi Fatima (s.a) and The Imams are twelve as follows:

1. Ali al Murtaza (a.s) son of Prophet's uncle, Abu Talib (a.s), and married to Our Lady of Light, Fatima (s.a); the daughter of the Holy Prophet. Date of birth 23 B.H. and date of Shahadat 40 A.H.

2. Hasan al Mujtaba (a.s) (the chosen), elder son of Ali (a.s) and Fatima (s.a). Date of birth 3A.H and date of Shahadat 50 A.H.

3. Hussain Syed-us-Shuhada (a.s). (The Chief of the Martyrs) 2nd son of Ali (a.s) and Fatima (s.a). Date of birth 4 A.H and date of Shahadat 10 Muharram 61 A.H.

4. Ali Zain-ul-Abedin (a.s). Date of birth 38 A.H and date of Shahadat 25 Muharram 95A.H.

5. Muhammad-al-Baqir (a.s). Date of birth 57 A.H. and date of Shahadat 114A.H.

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6. Jaffar Sadiq (the True) (a.s). Date of birth 83A.H and date of Shahadat 148A.H.

7. Moosa al Kazim (the Patient) (a.s). Date of birth 128A.H and date of Shahadat 183A.H.

8. Ali-ar-Raza (the accepted) (a.s). Date of birth 153A.H and date of Shahadat 203A.H.

9. Muhammad -at-Taqi (the Pious) (a.s). Date of birth 195A.H and date of Shahadat 220A.H.

10. Ali-an-Naqi (the Pure) (a.s). Date of birth 214A.H and date of Shahadat 254 A.H.

11. Hasan-al-Askari (a.s). Date of birth 232A.H & date of Shahadat 260A.H

12. Muhammad-al Mehdi: (Sahib-e-Asar-ul-Zaman (a.s). Date of birth 15 Sha'aban 255A.H, the Imam of our time. These are the only rightful Imams. There are no more than 12 Imams. The Twelfth Imam is alive till this day, but is hidden, and will reappear at a time appointed by Allah. He is the Awaited one and Sahib-e-Asar-ul-Zaman who will revive and spread Islam thought the world.

Note:-Whenever we utter or hear the name of our Prophet, we should recite Salawat, and we should say, (Peace of Allah be on him) whenever we utter or hear names of Masoomeen. Similarly we should stand up, as a mark of reverence, whenever we utter or hear the name of the Imam of our time, (12th Imam).

Alaahumma Salle-A'laa Mohammadin wa-Aale Muhammad.

5) Qiyamat (Resurrection) When the sky is rent asunder; when the stars scatter and the oceans roll together; when the graves are hurled about; each soul shall know what it has done and what it has failed to do.

O man! What evil has enticed you from your gracious Lord who created you, gave you an upright form, and proportioned you? In whatever shape He willed He could have moulded you. Yet you deny the Last Judgement. Surely there are guardians watching over you, noble recorders who know

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of all your actions. The righteous will surely dwell in bliss. But the wicked shall burn in Hell upon the Judgement-day: nor shall they ever escape from Me Would that you knew what the Day of Judgement is! Oh, would that you knew what the Day of Judgement is! It is the day when every soul will stand alone and Allah will reign supreme.

"Qiyamat is the belief in the day of Judgement or the hereafter. The day when all of mankind will be judged for their actions and deeds. The good deeds will be weighed and the bad deeds will be weighed. And whoever has done good in life will be awarded Heaven. All our deeds are being recorded by the angels and when the day of judgement comes we will be held accountable for what we have done in our lifetime. It is the Day when this entire universe will know that Allah is the One and Only Creator. And no one can take blame or lay blame on anyone's accounts References: [1] Muhammad Baqir Majlisi, Bihar al-Anwar, vol. 4, and pp. 221-3. [2]Translated with notes by Dawood, N.J.Penguin Books.

ALLA HUMMA SALLI ALA MUHAMMADIN WA ALY-MOHAMMAD PAJATUN PAK



- (1) Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (Pbuh)
- (2) Hazrat Ali (a.s) Ibn-e- Amran (Abu Talib) (a.s);
- (3) Hazrat Bibi Fatima (s.a);
- (4) Hazrat Imam Hasan (a.s);
- (5) Hazrat Imam Hussain (a.s).



ٱللَّهُمَّ صَلَّ عَلَى مُحَمَّذٍ ۖ ٱللَّهُمَّ صَلَّ عَلَى مُحَمَّذٍ إ

ROZA MUBARIK BIBI PAK HAZRAT FATIMAH-TU- ZAHIRA (S.A) 7

	Furuh-e-Deen are 10 in number					
1	Namaz (Prayers)	8	Nahi-anil-Munkar (Discouraging			
2	Roza (Fasting)		Others From Bad Deeds)			
3	Hajj (Pilgrimage)	9	Twalla (Loving Those Who Love			
4	Zakat (Charity) 2 ½ %		The Ahl-ul-Bayt)			
5	Khums (Wealth Tax)20%	10	Tabarra (Disliking The Enemies			
6	Jihad (Self-striving)]	of The Ahl-ul-Bayt)			
7	$A = P^{1} M_{a} = f(T_{a} + a) = \frac{1}{2} + O(t_{a} + a) = T_{a} D_{a} C_{a} = 1$					

7 | Amr-Bil-Maroof (Encouraging Others To Do Good)

Usoole Deen are the roots of faith but to be able to survive over time, they would have to be strengthened by the branches which are the Furuh-e-Deen. Just as the branches of a tree absorb Oxygen from the air and light from the sun to give nourishment to the tree, Furuh-e-Deen supply the nourishment to our faith.

Islam consists of the Branches of Faith (Furu-e-Deen) Furuh-e-Deen are 10 in number:

- 1. Salaat Prayers.
- 2. Sawm Fasting.
- 3. Hajj Pilgrimage to Makka.
- 4. Zakat 2 ½ % Islamic Tax.
- 5. Khums 20 % The share of the Holy Imams in the savings of the Muslims.
- 6. Jihad Struggle in the way of Allah (swt).
- 7. Amr-Bil-Maroof To Promote the doing of Good.
- 8. Nahi-anil-Munkar To Promote the staying away from Evil.
- 9. Twalla To love the Ahlul-Bayt (a.s).
- **10. Tabarra To keep aloof from the enemies of Ahlul-Bayt (a.s)**

1. Namaz / Salaat. (The 5 daily prayers) the institution of Namaz is one of the best gifts that a person could get from Allah Almighty. The focus of bowing ones forehead to the ground several times a day keeps ones perspective clear. It is a good cure for selfish instincts and helps keep your

feet firmly on the ground! The physical benefit of offering prayers 5 times a day is that one cannot remain dirty or unclean. To be fit to appear before Allah Almighty, one has to be clean physical as well as mentally. Washing the exposed parts of the body frequently gets rid of the dirt, grime & pollution that collect on them. Then, the different postures and position of the limbs, the back and the neck increase circulation of blood as well as providing exercise without any expense or wastage of time.

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2. Roza/Saum (Fasting in the month of Ramazan) Fasting entails a lot more than just remaining hungry for a specified period of time. Fasting from dawn to dusk requires one to abstain from food, drink, smoking and sex. In addition to this, one is encouraged to be respectful, courteous and cooperative while one is fasting. In this way, one is encouraged to get rid of excess weight, discipline oneself with regard to eating and drinking, quit smoking, and other bad habits that one may have.

3. Zakat / Zakaa (2.5% tax on savings) this is the key to a welfare state in Islam. The 2.5% of one's net savings goes a long way in looking after the needs of the Islamic nation's widows, orphans and the destitute. If all Muslims who are eligible to pay Zakat do so honestly, the amount so collected would be colossal. Note here that needy Syed's [descendents of Prophet Mohammad (Pbuh)] are not allowed to accept any benefit from the Zakat of the other Muslims. They can be helped by the collections under the head of KHUMS which is explained below.

4. Khums (Tax on wealth, spoils of war, Treasure, minerals, pearls, profit from land sold to No-Muslims, profit from business or savings from income there of) Khums is the share of the Holy Imams in the savings of the Muslims. The amount is one fifth of the net savings after all legitimate needs have been met. Half of the amount so collected is to be retained by the Mujtahideen [the top Scholars who are the designated assistants to Imam-e-Zamana (a.s)] for general welfare, Imambargha & academic expenses, etc. The other half is used to help needy Syed's [descendents of Prophet Mohammad (Pbuh)] who cannot benefit from Zakat, which is haraam (banned) for them.

5. Hajj (the pilgrimage to Khana-e-Kaaba at least once in life) The Hajj pilgrimage is compulsory for those who can afford it. It is a very just injunction. If one has a loan to pay off, one is not eligible for Hajj, if your children have yet to be married, or if the expenses of Hajj are equal to the expenses for medical care required for that person, or if one is a Prisoner/

slave or if one has not paid his Zakat / Khums. Eligibility for Hajj is subject to the person being free of any financial obligations. It cannot be performed with stolen or illegally acquired wealth. The benefits of Hajj are many. Meeting thousands of fellow Muslims from all parts of the world fosters friendship & brotherhood. History is also revised to refresh the memory of Muslims confused by conflicting faiths and beliefs encountered by them around the world. Seeing everyone dressed in the

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simplest and uniform attire, devoid of all embellishments, is a very humbling experience for the well endowed. For those who are not so well off, it is a comfort that Allah considers all His people equal, symbolically dressed in the same simple two sheets of unstitched white cloth. The different parts of the Pilgrimage refer to incidents in the early history of Islam and refresh the memory of the elder Hajjis while being of immense educational value to the younger ones.

6. Jihad (struggle against ones own bad urges/ instincts or to defend ones life) this is the most misunderstood and misused tenet of Islam. Islam never instructs its followers to go out and conquer non-Muslims or kill them if they don't accept Islam. This is the result of leaders of sects that cropped up immediately after the passing away of Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) exerting their followers to conquer new lands and get more adherents to extend their power. Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) taught by example, never resorting to violence and even accepting peace on terms which at that time seemed humiliating to some of his followers. These terms later proved to be the strengthening factor in Islam. The true leaders of Islam, the Holy Imams (a.s), the Progeny (a.s) of Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) all exerted the Muslims not to kill in the name of Islam. Imam Hussain bin Ali (a.s), in fact, died in a most gruesome war at Kerbala just outside Baghdad not preferring to kill but to be killed even when he could easily have annihilated the whole force of the enemy .He was up against an enemy of Islam who was distorting the face of Islam by doing all that was banned and not doing all that was required by Islam. His illustrious Father, the First Imam, Hazrat Ali Bin Abu Talib (a.s) has clearly said that the biggest & the best Jihad is against your own bad instincts and your ego. In the Ghaibat (physical absence) of the Imam-e-Zamana (a.s), Jihad [like war] is allowed only to defend oneself but totally banned for aggression.

7. Amr bil Maaruf literally means exhorting others to do good deeds. Just telling someone to pray, fast, pay Zakat / Khums etc is the essence of Amr-Bil-Maroof. Accepting or rejecting your advice is their own prerogative.

8. Nahi an Ilmunkar means exhorting others to shun bad deeds. Just telling someone, who is a sinner, not to sin is a good deed. Accepting or rejecting your advice is their own prerogative.