

AQD 301 Study Guide

Week 1 – 3

Book: Sharh Aqidah al-Tahawi by Imam Ghaznawi

Part 1: Introduction

Imam Tahawi says: This is a mention of the explanation of the *Aqidah* of *Ahl al-Sunnah wa al-Jama'ah*, according to the rightly guided *fuqaha*: Imam Abu Hanifah, Imam Abu Yusuf, and Imam Muhammad, how they explained the *Usul al-Din*, and how they applied them practically in the service of the lord of the worlds.

What is Aqidah?

Linguistically: '*Aqidah* is on the scale of *Fa'ilah* in the meaning of *maf'ul*. That is to say what is meant when someone says '*aqidah* he is referring to something that is tied or fastened. Linguistically *Aqidah* refers to then, that which a heart is tied to or adheres to strongly.

Technically: *Aqidah* is the proper name of the science of *Usul al-Din*, the beliefs associated with faith. *Aqidah* then, becomes a science of the heart focused solely on belief as opposed to *Fiqh* which focuses on the actions of the limbs in accordance with that belief.

What is the purpose of studying Aqidah?

To know and have conviction about Allah's existence, his names, qualities and deeds. To know the place of Allah as opposed to creation. To believe in the angels, prophets, saints and imams, to believe in the beginning of creation, and the return, according to the creed of Islam and not the creed of others.

What benefit do you obtain from studying Aqidah?

Conviction in Allah, realization of your heavenly destiny and the removal of doubts that would impede human progress.

How is Aqidah related to other sciences?

Aqidah is *Usul al-Din*, all of the Islamic religious sciences can only be studied on the basis of the correct *Aqidah*. If *Fiqh* is the practice of Islam, then *Aqidah* is the study and practice of Iman. *Aqidah* is the *Asl* and *Fiqh* is auxiliary.

What are the virtues of this science?

The virtues of a science depend on the virtues of the object of study. *Aqidah* is the study of Allah and therefore the most virtuous science that can be studied.

Founders of the science of Aqidah

All knowledge comes from Allah, when we discuss founders of a science we mean by this the first people who wrote and codified what is to be discussed in this science, what to include and what to exclude. Some are of the opinion that the first to do this was Imam Abu Hanifah in his book *al-Fiqh al-Akbar*, others claim it was Imam Malik in his *Muwatta*, the majority are of the opinion that the first person to really define this science was Imam Abu Hasan al-Ashari. It was Imam Tahwai's book

however that would become the most famous and accepted.

Names of the science of Aqidah

Aqidah is called *aqidah* by virtue of it being something that is adhered to. It is called '*ilm Usul al-Din*', by virtue of it being the basis for the practice of *din*. It is called '*ilm al-Tawhid*', because the first and most important issue discussed is Allah's oneness, and it is called '*ilm al-Kalam*', because of the rhetoric involved in its issues.

Preparation for learning the science of Aqidah

The basics of Aqidah, the six articles of faith, only require that a functioning intellect. The more controversial and disputed aspects of Aqidah require a deep understanding of the Arabic language, the quranic sciences, hadith history, and logic.

The ruling on studying Aqidah

To know about Allah, to obtain some time of *ma'rifah* of Allah is *wajib* on every single Muslim, according to the *Ahl al-Sunnah wa al-Jam'ah*.

Common Issues

Examples of *Aqidah* Issues include: The oneness of Allah, Quran being Allah's speech, Allah deserving the name creator before he created the creation, and etc.

Foundation, Origin, Basis	أصل
Auxiliary, Supplementary, Derived	فرع
Argumentation, Discussion, Speech(of Allah)	كلام
To make(or declare) something one	توحيد
Feminine form of the <i>wazn</i> فعيل	فعليلة