العَقِيدَةُ الوَاسِطِيَّةُ

لِشَيْخِ الإِسْلَامِ ٱبْنِ تَيْمِيَّةَ

Al-ʿAqīdah al-Wāsiṭiyyah

Ibn Taymiyyah

Arabic text with English translation

WELSH MUTOON PRESS

العَقِيدَةُ الوَاسِطِيَّةُ

لِشَيْخِ الإِسْلَامِ
أَبِي العَبَّاسِ أَحْمَدَ بْنِ عَبْدِ الحَلِيمِ ٱبْنِ تَيْمِيَّةَ الحَرَّانِيِّ
رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ (ت ٧٢٨ هـ)

Al-ʿAqīdah al-Wāsiṭiyyah

Shaykh al-Islām Abū al-ʿAbbās Aḥmad ibn ʿAbd al-Ḥalīm Ibn

Taymiyyah al-Ḥarrānī

Arabic text with an English translation

Welsh Mutoon Press

المحتويات

Contents

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

1. Introduction

وَقَدْ دَخَلَ فِي هَذِهِ الجُمْلَةِ ...

2. Allah’s self-description in the Qur’an

About this sample

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the All-Merciful, the Ever-Merciful.

الحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالهُدَى وَدِينِ الحَقِّ لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلَى الدِّينِ كُلِّهِ، وَكَفَى بِاللَّهِ شَهِيداً.

All praise belongs to Allah, who sent His Messenger with the guidance and the religion of truth, so that He might make it prevail over all religion; and Allah suffices as a Witness.

وَأَشْهَدُ أَلَّا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، إِقْرَاراً بِهِ وَتَوْحِيداً، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّداً عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ، صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ تَسْلِيماً مَزِيداً.

And I bear witness that there is no god but Allah alone, who has no partner, affirming it and declaring His oneness; and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and His Messenger. May Allah bless him and grant him abundant peace.

اعْتِقَادُ الفِرْقَةِ النَّاجِيَةِ المَنْصُورَةِ إِلَى قِيَامِ السَّاعَةِ – أَهْلِ السُّنَّةِ وَالجَمَاعَةِ :–

The creed of the saved sect, which is given victory until the Hour is established – the people of the Sunnah and the Community (Ahl al-Sunnah wa-l-Jamāʿah) – is:

الإِيمَانُ بِاللَّهِ، وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ، وَكُتُبِهِ، وَرُسُلِهِ، وَالبَعْثِ بَعْدَ المَوْتِ، وَالإِيمَانُ بِالقَدَرِ خَيْرِهِ وَشَرِّهِ.

Belief in Allah, His angels, His Books, His messengers, the resurrection after death, and belief in the decree (al-qadar), its good and its evil.

وَمِنَ الإِيمَانِ بِاللَّهِ: الإِيمَانُ بِمَا وَصَفَ بِهِ نَفْسَهُ فِي كِتَابِهِ، وَبِمَا وَصَفَهُ بِهِ رَسُولُهُ ﷺ، مِنْ غَيْرِ تَحْرِيفٍ وَلَا تَعْطِيلٍ، وَمِنْ غَيْرِ تَكْيِيفٍ وَلَا تَمْثِيلٍ؛ بَلْ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِأَنَّ اللَّهَ سُبْحَانَهُ: ﴿لَيْسَ كَمِثْلِهِۦ شَىْءٌ وَهُوَ ٱلسَّمِيعُ ٱلْبَصِيرُ﴾.

And part of belief in Allah is belief in that with which He has described Himself in His Book, and with which His Messenger (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) has described Him, without distortion (taḥrīf) and without denial (taʿṭīl), and without asking how (takyīf) and without likening (tamthīl). Rather, they believe that Allah, glorified is He, is as He says: “There is nothing like unto Him, and He is the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing.” [42:11].

فَلَا يَنْفُونَ عَنْهُ مَا وَصَفَ بِهِ نَفْسَهُ، وَلَا يُحَرِّفُونَ الكَلِمَ عَنْ مَوَاضِعِهِ، وَلَا يُلْحِدُونَ فِي أَسْمَاءِ اللَّهِ وآيَاتِهِ، وَلَا يُكَيِّفُونَ، وَلَا يُمَثِّلُونَ صِفَاتِهِ بِصِفَاتِ خَلْقِهِ؛ لِأَنَّهُ سُبْحَانَهُ لَا سَمِيَّ لَهُ، وَلَا كُفْءَ لَهُ، وَلَا نِدَّ لَهُ، وَلَا يُقَاسُ بِخَلْقِهِ؛ فَإِنَّهُ سُبْحَانَهُ أَعْلَمُ بِنَفْسِهِ وَبِغَيْرِهِ، وَأَصْدَقُ قِيلاً، وَأَحْسَنُ حَدِيثاً مِنْ خَلْقِهِ.

So they do not deny of Him that with which He has described Himself; they do not distort words from their proper places; they do not deviate concerning the names of Allah and His signs; they do not ascribe a ‘how’ to His attributes; and they do not liken His attributes to the attributes of His creation. For He, glorified is He, has no namesake, no equal and no rival, and He is not to be compared with His creation. For He, glorified is He, knows best about Himself and about others, and He is more truthful in word and better in speech than His creation.

ثُمَّ رُسُلُهُ صَادِقُونَ مُصَدَّقُونَ، بِخِلَافِ الَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ عَلَيْهِ مَا لَا يَعْلَمُونَ، وَلِهَذَا قَالَ سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى: ﴿سُبْحَٰنَ رَبِّكَ رَبِّ ٱلْعِزَّةِ عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ * وَسَلَٰمٌ عَلَى ٱلْمُرْسَلِينَ * وَٱلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ ٱلْعَٰلَمِينَ﴾، فَسَبَّحَ نَفْسَهُ عَمَّا وَصَفَهُ بِهِ الْمُخَالِفُونَ لِلرُّسُلِ، وَسَلَّمَ عَلَى الْمُرْسَلِينَ؛ لِسَلَامَةِ مَا قَالُوهُ مِنَ النَّقْصِ وَالعَيْبِ.

Then His messengers are truthful and are to be believed, unlike those who say about Him what they do not know. That is why He, glorified and exalted is He, said: “Exalted is your Lord, the Lord of might, above what they describe. * And peace be upon the messengers. * And all praise belongs to Allah, Lord of the worlds.” [37:180–182]. So He declared Himself exalted above what the opponents of the messengers ascribed to Him, and He sent peace upon the messengers because what they said was devoid of deficiency and fault.

وَهُوَ سُبْحَانَهُ قَدْ جَمَعَ فِيمَا وَصَفَ بِهِ نَفْسَهُ: بَيْنَ النَّفْيِ وَالإِثْبَاتِ.

And He, glorified is He, has combined, in what He has described Himself with, negation and affirmation.

فَلَا عُدُولَ لِأَهْلِ السُّنَّةِ وَالجَمَاعَةِ عَمَّا جَاءَتْ بِهِ المُرْسَلُونَ، فَإِنَّهُ الصِّرَاطُ المُسْتَقِيمُ، صِرَاطُ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنَ النَّبِيِّينَ وَالصِّدِّيقِينَ وَالشُّهَدَاءِ وَالصَّالِحِينَ.

So there is no turning aside for the people of the Sunnah and the Community from what the messengers brought; for it is the Straight Path, the path of those whom Allah has favoured among the prophets, the truthful, the martyrs and the righteous.

وَقَدْ دَخَلَ فِي هَذِهِ الجُمْلَةِ:

Included in this summary is:

مَا وَصَفَ بِهِ نَفْسَهُ فِي سُورَةِ الإِخْلَاصِ، الَّتِي تَعْدِلُ ثُلُثَ القُرْآنِ، حَيْثُ يَقُولُ: ﴿قُلْ هُوَ ٱللَّهُ أَحَدٌ * ٱللَّهُ ٱلصَّمَدُ * لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ * وَلَمْ يَكُن لَّهُۥ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌۢ﴾.

what He has described Himself with in Sūrat al-Ikhlāṣ, which is equal to a third of the Qur'an, where He says: "Say: He is Allah, One. * Allah, the Self-Sufficient Master. * He did not beget, nor was He begotten. * And there is none equal to Him." [112:1–4].

وَمَا وَصَفَ بِهِ نَفْسَهُ فِي أَعْظَمِ آيَةٍ فِي كِتَابِهِ، حَيْثُ يَقُولُ: ﴿ٱللَّهُ لَآ إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ ٱلْحَىُّ ٱلْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُۥ سِنَةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَّهُۥ مَا فِى ٱلسَّمَٰوَٰتِ وَمَا فِى ٱلْأَرْضِ مَن ذَا ٱلَّذِى يَشْفَعُ عِندَهُۥٓ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِۦ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَىْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِۦٓ إِلَّا بِمَا شَآءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ ٱلسَّمَٰوَٰتِ وَٱلْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَـُٔودُهُۥ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ ٱلْعَلِىُّ ٱلْعَظِيمُ﴾.

And what He has described Himself with in the greatest verse in His Book, where He says: “Allah – there is no god but He, the Ever-Living, the Self-Subsisting. Neither drowsiness overtakes Him nor sleep. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is it that can intercede with Him except by His permission? He knows what is before them and what is behind them, and they encompass nothing of His knowledge except what He wills. His Kursī extends over the heavens and the earth, and preserving them does not weary Him. And He is the Most High, the Most Great.” [2:255].

وَلِهَذَا كَانَ مَنْ قَرَأَ هَذِهِ الآيَةَ فِي لَيْلَةٍ؛ لَمْ يَزَلْ عَلَيْهِ مِنَ اللَّهِ حَافِظٌ، وَلَا يَقْرَبُهُ شَيْطَانٌ حَتَّى يُصْبِحَ.

That is why whoever recites this verse during a night will continue to have a guardian from Allah over him, and no devil will come near him until morning.

وَقَوْلِهِ سُبْحَانَهُ: ﴿وَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى ٱلْحَيِّ ٱلَّذِى لَا يَمُوتُ﴾.

And His saying, glorified is He: “And put your trust in the Ever-Living who does not die.” [25:58].

وَقَوْلِهِ: ﴿هُوَ ٱلْأَوَّلُ وَٱلْآخِرُ وَٱلظَّٰهِرُ وَٱلْبَاطِنُ ۖ وَهُوَ بِكُلِّ شَىْءٍ عَلِيمٌ﴾.

And His saying: “He is the First and the Last, the Manifest and the Hidden, and He has full knowledge of all things.” [57:3].

وَقَوْلِهِ: ﴿وَهُوَ ٱلْعَلِيمُ ٱلْحَكِيمُ﴾.

And His saying: “And He is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise.” [66:2].

﴿ٱلْعَلِيمُ ٱلْخَبِيرُ﴾.

“The All-Knowing, the All-Aware.” [66:3].

﴿يَعْلَمُ مَا يَلِجُ فِى ٱلْأَرْضِ وَمَا يَخْرُجُ مِنْهَا وَمَا يَنزِلُ مِنَ ٱلسَّمَآءِ وَمَا يَعْرُجُ فِيهَا﴾.

“He knows what enters into the earth and what comes out of it, and what descends from the heaven and what ascends into it.” [57:4].

﴿وَعِندَهُۥ مَفَاتِحُ ٱلْغَيْبِ لَا يَعْلَمُهَآ إِلَّا هُوَ ۚ وَيَعْلَمُ مَا فِى ٱلْبَرِّ وَٱلْبَحْرِ ۚ وَمَا تَسْقُطُ مِن وَرَقَةٍ إِلَّا يَعْلَمُهَا وَلَا حَبَّةٍ فِى ظُلُمَٰتِ ٱلْأَرْضِ وَلَا رَطْبٍ وَلَا يَابِسٍ إِلَّا فِى كِتَٰبٍ مُّبِينٍ﴾.

"And with Him are the keys of the unseen; none knows them but He. He knows what is on the land and in the sea. Not a leaf falls but He knows it, nor is there a grain in the darknesses of the earth, nor anything moist or dry, but it is in a clear Book." [6:59].

﴿وَمَا تَحْمِلُ مِنْ أُنثَىٰ وَلَا تَضَعُ إِلَّا بِعِلْمِهِۦ ۚ﴾.

"And no female conceives or gives birth except with His knowledge." [35:11].

وَقَوْلِهِ: ﴿لِتَعْلَمُوٓا۟ أَنَّ ٱللَّهَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَىْءٍ قَدِيرٌ وَأَنَّ ٱللَّهَ قَدْ أَحَاطَ بِكُلِّ شَىْءٍ عِلْمًا﴾.

And His saying: "That you may know that Allah has power over all things, and that Allah has encompassed all things in knowledge." [65:12].

وَقَوْلِهِ: ﴿إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ هُوَ ٱلرَّزَّاقُ ذُو ٱلْقُوَّةِ ٱلْمَتِينُ﴾.

And His saying: "Indeed, Allah – He is the All-Provider, the Possessor of strength, the Firm." [51:58].

وَقَوْلِهِ: ﴿لَيْسَ كَمِثْلِهِۦ شَىْءٌ ۖ وَهُوَ ٱلسَّمِيعُ ٱلْبَصِيرُ﴾.

And His saying: “There is nothing like unto Him, and He is the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing.” [42:11].

﴿إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ نِعِمَّا يَعِظُكُم بِهِۦٓ ۗ إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ كَانَ سَمِيعًۢا بَصِيرًا﴾.

“Excellent indeed is that with which Allah admonishes you. Indeed, Allah is ever All-Hearing, All-Seeing.” [4:58].

وَقَوْلِهِ: ﴿وَلَوْلَآ إِذْ دَخَلْتَ جَنَّتَكَ قُلْتَ مَا شَآءَ ٱللَّهُ لَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِٱللَّهِ﴾.

And His saying: “And why, when you entered your garden, did you not say: ‘What Allah has willed; there is no power except through Allah’?” [18:39]

﴿وَلَوْ شَآءَ ٱللَّهُ مَا ٱقْتَتَلَ ٱلَّذِينَ مِنۢ بَعْدِهِم مِّنۢ بَعْدِ مَا جَآءَتْهُمُ ٱلْبَيِّنَٰتُ وَلَٰكِنِ ٱخْتَلَفُوا۟ فَمِنْهُم مَّنْ ءَامَنَ وَمِنْهُم مَّن كَفَرَ ۚ وَلَوْ شَآءَ ٱللَّهُ مَا ٱقْتَتَلُوا۟ وَلَٰكِنَّ ٱللَّهَ يَفْعَلُ مَا يُرِيدُ﴾.

“And had Allah willed, those who came after them would not have fought one another after the clear proofs had come to them; but they differed, and among them were some who believed and some who disbelieved. And had Allah willed, they would not have fought one another; but Allah does what He wills.” [2:253].

﴿إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ يَحۡكُمُ مَا يُرِيدُ﴾.

“Indeed, Allah decrees what He wills.” [5:1].

﴿فَمَن يُرِدِ ٱللَّهُ أَن يَهۡدِيَهُۥ يَشۡرَحۡ صَدۡرَهُۥ لِلۡإِسۡلَٰمِۖ وَمَن يُرِدۡ أَن يُضِلَّهُۥ يَجۡعَلۡ صَدۡرَهُۥ ضَيِّقًا حَرَجًا كَأَنَّمَا يَصَّعَّدُ فِي ٱلسَّمَآءِ﴾.

“So whomever Allah wills to guide, He opens his breast to Islam; and whomever He wills to send astray, He makes his breast narrow and constricted, as though he were climbing up into the sky.” [6:125].

وَقَوْلِهِ: ﴿وَأَحۡسِنُوٓاْۛ إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ يُحِبُّ ٱلۡمُحۡسِنِينَ﴾.

And His saying: “And do good; indeed, Allah loves those who do good.” [2:195].

﴿وَأَقۡسِطُوٓاْۖ إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ يُحِبُّ ٱلۡمُقۡسِطِينَ﴾.

“And act equitably; indeed, Allah loves those who act equitably.” [49:9].

﴿فَمَا ٱسۡتَقَٰمُواْ لَكُمۡ فَٱسۡتَقِيمُواْ لَهُمۡۚ إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ يُحِبُّ ٱلۡمُتَّقِينَ﴾.

“So as long as they are upright towards you, be upright towards them; indeed, Allah loves those who are mindful of Him.” [9:7].

﴿إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ يُحِبُّ ٱلتَّوَّٰبِينَ وَيُحِبُّ ٱلْمُتَطَهِّرِينَ﴾، ﴿فَسَوْفَ يَأْتِى ٱللَّهُ بِقَوْمٍ يُحِبُّهُمْ وَيُحِبُّونَهُۥٓ﴾.

“Indeed, Allah loves those who turn to Him in repentance, and He loves those who purify themselves.” [2:222]; “Allah will bring a people whom He loves and who love Him.” [5:54].

﴿إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ يُحِبُّ ٱلَّذِينَ يُقَٰتِلُونَ فِى سَبِيلِهِۦ صَفًّا كَأَنَّهُم بُنْيَٰنٌ مَّرْصُوصٌ﴾.

“Indeed, Allah loves those who fight in His cause in ranks, as though they were a solid structure.” [61:4].

﴿قُلْ إِن كُنتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ ٱللَّهَ فَٱتَّبِعُونِى يُحْبِبْكُمُ ٱللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ ۗ﴾.

“Say: If you love Allah, then follow me; Allah will love you and forgive you your sins.” [3:31].

وَقَوْلِهِ: ﴿رَضِىَ ٱللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا۟ عَنْهُ ۚ﴾.

And His saying: “Allah is pleased with them, and they are pleased with Him.” [58:22].

وَقَوْلِهِ: ﴿بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَـٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ﴾.

And His saying: “In the name of Allah, the All-Merciful, the Ever-Merciful.” [1:1].

﴿رَبَّنَا وَسِعْتَ كُلَّ شَىْءٍ رَّحْمَةً وَعِلْمًا﴾.

“Our Lord, You encompass all things in mercy and knowledge.” [40:7].

﴿وَكَانَ بِٱلْمُؤْمِنِينَ رَحِيمًا﴾.

“And He is ever merciful to the believers.” [33:43].

﴿كَتَبَ رَبُّكُمْ عَلَىٰ نَفْسِهِ ٱلرَّحْمَةَ﴾.

“Your Lord has prescribed mercy upon Himself.” [6:54].

﴿وَهُوَ ٱلْغَفُورُ ٱلرَّحِيمُ﴾.

“And He is the Oft-Forgiving, the Ever-Merciful.” [46:8].

﴿فَٱللَّهُ خَيْرٌ حَـٰفِظًا وَهُوَ أَرْحَمُ ٱلرَّٰحِمِينَ﴾.

“For Allah is the best guardian, and He is the Most Merciful of those who show mercy.” [12:64].

وَقَوْلِهِ: ﴿وَمَن يَقْتُلْ مُؤْمِنًا مُّتَعَمِّدًا فَجَزَآؤُهُۥ جَهَنَّمُ خَٰلِدًا فِيهَا وَغَضِبَ ٱللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَلَعَنَهُۥ﴾.

And His saying: “And whoever kills a believer intentionally, his recompense is Hell, abiding therein; and Allah is angry with him and has cursed him.” [4:93].

وَقَوْلِهِ: ﴿ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمُ ٱتَّبَعُواْ مَآ أَسْخَطَ ٱللَّهَ وَكَرِهُواْ رِضْوَٰنَهُۥ فَأَحْبَطَ أَعْمَٰلَهُمْ﴾.

And His saying: “That is because they followed what angered Allah and disliked His good pleasure, so He rendered their deeds void.” [47:28].

وَقَوْلِهِ: ﴿فَلَمَّآ ءَاسَفُونَا ٱنتَقَمْنَا مِنْهُمْ﴾.

And His saying: “So when they provoked Our anger, We took retribution from them.” [43:55].

وَقَوْلِهِ: ﴿وَلَٰكِن كَرِهَ ٱللَّهُ ٱنۢبِعَاثَهُمْ فَثَبَّطَهُمْ﴾.

And His saying: “But Allah disliked their setting out, so He held them back.” [9:46].

وَقَوْلِهِ: ﴿كَبُرَ مَقْتًا عِندَ ٱللَّهِ أَن تَقُولُواْ مَا لَا تَفْعَلُونَ﴾.

And His saying: “Most hateful it is in the sight of Allah that you should say what you do not do.” [61:3].

وَقَوْلِهِ: ﴿هَلْ يَنظُرُونَ إِلَّآ أَن يَأْتِيَهُمُ ٱللَّهُ فِى ظُلَلٍ مِّنَ ٱلْغَمَامِ وَٱلْمَلَٰٓئِكَةُ وَقُضِىَ ٱلْأَمْرُ﴾.

And His saying: “Are they waiting for anything except that Allah should come to them in shadows of cloud, and the angels, and the matter be decided?” [2:210]

﴿هَلْ يَنظُرُونَ إِلَّآ أَن تَأْتِيَهُمُ ٱلْمَلَٰٓئِكَةُ أَوْ يَأْتِىَ رَبُّكَ أَوْ يَأْتِىَ بَعْضُ ءَايَٰتِ رَبِّكَ﴾.

“Are they waiting for anything except that the angels should come to them, or your Lord should come, or some of the signs of your Lord should come?” [6:158]

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