



The Shahada

JOURNEY INTO ISLAM

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THE TESTIMONY

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أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

Ash-hadu an lā ilāha illa-llāh, wa ash-hadu anna Muḥammadan rasūlu-llāh

I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.

Islam is built upon this testimony. Say it with belief in the heart.

WHAT IT MEANS

The two testimonies

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ — مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

Lā ilāha illa-llāh — Muḥammadun rasūlu-llāh

'There is no god but Allah': none is worshipped but Him alone, with no partner.

'Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah': he is His servant and final messenger, whose way you now follow.

The first frees worship for God alone; the second makes the Prophet ﷺ your guide to it.

HOW IT IS TAKEN

Saying it

A sincere testimony, understood and believed, is all it takes to enter Islam — it was the very first thing the Prophet ﷺ told his companions to call people to. No ceremony or witnesses are required, though saying it before others is a beautiful and encouraged start.

If you have not yet said it aloud, you can — now.

FIRST, PURIFY

A fresh start, outwardly too

On entering Islam it is recommended to make ghusl — a full bath — marking a clean beginning. After it, learn wudu and the prayer.

See the Wudu Poster and the First Steps booklet in this pack.

A CLEAN SLATE

Islam wipes out what came before

الإِسْلَامُ يُهْدِمُ مَا كَانَ قَبْلَهُ

Al-islāmu yahdimu mā kāna qablah

'Islam demolishes whatever came before it.' Every past sin is forgiven; you begin anew, with a clean record.

A mercy the Prophet ﷺ gave to reassure a new Muslim.

Every dua on these cards is cited to the Qur'an or a graded hadith.

Full sources: journeyintoislam.com/pocket-guides/shahada-cards

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