



DOUBTING RELIGION ¹

Shaykh Muḥammad b. ‘Alawī al-Mālīkī al-Ḥasanī

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This is the foremost sickness of the heart. It is necessary for the human being to purify his heart of any doubts concerning Allah ﷻ, His Messenger ﷺ and the Hereafter. This grave sickness afflicts some people, particularly at the point of death- leading them to an ugly end. We seek refuge in Allah from this.

Whoever experiences such doubt is not allowed to keep it to himself [unattended], thus meeting Allah in this condition. Rather, he must strive to remove them as far as possible.

Among things classed as doubts concerning Allah ﷻ is to believe anything of Him which nullifies His perfect Transcendence. Among the things classed as doubts concerning His Messenger ﷺ is to believe of him anything which nullifies his perfect human sinlessness. Such beliefs either elevate the Prophet ﷺ to the divine or, on the other hand, equate him with other human beings. Both these beliefs are false.

The best way to remove doubts in faith is to ask the ‘Ulemā and the truly pious. If one does not encounter any of them, study their books on the subject of *ṭawḥīd* and the acquisition of certain faith. Random thoughts and wayward whisperings that occur to the heart in matters of faith, but which the heart fundamentally knows to be invalid, are not counted as doubts. Such a heart, though, is also equipped with a strong determination to shun and counter such thoughts. It is sufficient for one to whom such satanic whisperings occur to shun and detest them through seeking refuge in Allah.



¹ Shaykh Muḥammad b. ‘Alawī al-Mālīkī al-Ḥasanī, *Qul: Hādhihi Sabīlī* [Eng. Say: This Is My Way]