

Al-Qawā'id Al-arba' (The Four Fundamental Principles)

Intro –

1. What is the topic of this book?
 - The topic is Shirk
 - What is shirk? = Invoke others with Allah or beside Allah. It is of 2 types: Major & minor
 - Major Shirk: Its action takes one out of the fold of Islam, nullifies all an individual's deeds and if the individual dies upon it without repentance, the individual will reside in the Hellfire forever.
 - Minor Shirk: It is the opposite of major, its action does not take one out of the fold of Islam, the specific action is nullified instead of every action and the individual who commits it will not reside in the Hellfire forever, he will only serve his punishment for it
2. Why do we study shirk?
 - We study this book in order to learn it so that we can keep ourselves and our loved ones far from the severe sin that is shirk
 - Narrated `Abdullah: I asked the Prophet, "What is the greatest sin in the Sight of Allah?" He said, "That you set up a rival unto Allah though He Alone created you." I said, "That is indeed a great sin." **[Sahih al-Bukhari 4477]**
 - Narrated Hudhaifa bin Al-Yaman: The people used to ask Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) about good, but I used to ask him about evil for fear that it might overtake me. **[Sahih al-Bukhari 3606]**
 - "Verily, whosoever sets up partners in worship with Allah, then Allah has forbidden Paradise for him, and the Fire will be his abode. And for the Zalmoon (polytheists and wrongdoers) there are no helpers" **[Qur'an 5:72]**
3. Why this book specifically?
 - It is the advice of the scholars
 - We are following the scholars of the Salaf as they would study Tawheed and then the evil that comes also as well as starting from smaller books then moving to bigger books
 - It is a refutation to the people that come with doubt about shirk
 - It is a summary of the book 'kashf ash shubuhaat' (removal of the doubts)
 - If we jump to big books we will cause problems for ourselves
4. How is the book split?
 - The book is split into 3: A small introduction on the keys to happiness, the importance of studying Tawheed and the four principles of shirk
5. What are the four principles?
 - Mushrikoon believed in Ruboobiyah but it didn't enter them to Islam
 - From the shirk that was committed by the Mushrikoon, they would seek nearness and intercession
 - The framework of kufr is worshipping other than Allah without looking at the level of the one being worshipped
 - How severe the shirk of our time is compared to those before us
6. What are the fruits of studying this book?
 - The one who studies, implements, teaches others whilst having patience upon it will save himself and those around him from falling into shirk, by the will of Allah.