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# BEGINNING OF GUIDANCE

A Brief Introduction to the  
Fundamentals of Islamic Knowledge

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## Foreword

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

إِنَّ اللّٰهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا

Indeed, Allah and His Messengers send blessings on the Prophet; O people who believe! Send blessings and abundant salutations upon him. (Surah Al-Ahzab, 33:56)

اللهم صل علي سيدنا محمد وعلي اله وسلم

*Allāhumma ṣalli ‘alā Sayyidinā Muḥammadin wa ‘alā ālihi wa sallim*

O Allah, send prayers and peace upon Our Master Muhammad and upon his Family.

## Introduction

Our Beloved brothers and sisters, converts and born Muslims, we thank Allah SWT for all His blessings that He has bestowed upon us. Such great blessings are, the blessings of Iman And Islam.

In this booklet, we would like to share just a brief understanding on the fundamentals of Islamic Knowledge. Our Beloved and Merciful Allah mentions in the Qur'an:

يَرْفَعِ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ ۗ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ

*“Allah will raise those who believe among you and those who were given knowledge, by many degrees. And Allah is All-Aware of what you do”*

(Surah Al-Mujadila, 58:11)

May Allah put barakah, all goodness and blessings for everyone, in this short booklet. May it benefit everyone and may it be a beginning of Guidance, with Allah's will.

## What are the types of Knowledge that needs to be learned?

The scope of discussion is extremely wide, when we discuss on knowledge. However, in general, Islamic knowledge is divided into two – **Fardhu ‘Ain** and **Fardhu Kifayah**.

Fardhu ‘Ain is the knowledge that is obligatory upon every sane Muslim individual that has reached the age of puberty, to learn and practice. One will be deemed sinful if they were to willingly abandon it.

This knowledge is within the scope of the basics of Islam, which is faith, code of living and manners.

Anas ibn Malik reported:  
The Messenger of Allah ﷺ, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "Seeking knowledge is an obligation upon every Muslim."  
Source: Sunan Ibn Mājah 224



## What is Fardhu 'Ain?

Fardhu 'Ain is that which is obligated on every single Muslim that falls under the category of Mukallaf (a sane minded person who has reached puberty) such as praying, fasting, pilgrimage for those who afford.

These acts of worship are obligatory for each individual accountable.



## What is Fardhu Kifayah?

Fardhu Kifayah is that which is obligated on a Muslim community, not individually.

Meaning: When part of the community does it, the rest of the community will not be held accountable. However, when not a single person in the community does it, the whole community will be sinful.

For example: Funeral process.

## Types of Fardhu 'Ain

The Proof of Islam by Imam Ghazali (may Allah be pleased with him), have deduced this knowledge into the Knowledge of dealings, which involves

### 1) Knowledge of Faith (*'Ilm Akidah*)

*'Ilm Akidah* touches on the Muslim witnessing pillars of faith and Islam. (Rukun Iman & Rukun Islam)

### 2) Knowledge of Actions (*'Ilm Fi'il*)

*'Ilm Fi'il* touches on the perfection of one's acts of worship ('Ibadah) such as purification, prayers, fasting, zakat and Hajj Pilgrimage.

### 3) Knowledge of avoidance (*'Ilm Tark*)

*'Ilm Tark* touches on prohibitions that is obligatory upon a Muslim to avoid, such as killing, adultery, drinking of alcohol, gambling and even illnesses of the heart that needs to be treated such as jealousy, hatred, revenge and others.



## Where to find Fardhu 'Ain classes?

PHYSICAL CLASSES

### DARUL ARQAM (MCAS)

#### Fundamentals of Fardhu 'Ain by Ustaz Syed Isa

Every second Sunday of the Month,  
3.30pm-4.30pm at MCAS 32 Onan Road



#### Knowing Islam Session (KIS)

<https://www.darul-arqam.org.sg/knowning-islam-session-kis/>

#### Beginner's Course on Islam

<https://www.darul-arqam.org.sg/beginners-course-on-islam-bci>

#### Let's pray 1

<https://www.darul-arqam.org.sg/lets-pray-1-weekly/>

### PERGAS

#### Program Takrif Islam/Introduction to Islam

<https://ipip.sg/program/pengajian-islam/program-takrif-islam-english/>

ONLINE CLASSES

### USTAZ ANWAR HUSSEIN

#### Muqaddimah Hadramiyah in Masjid Khalid

<https://m.facebook.com/masjidkhalidsg/>  
(Facebook live & Replay available)

### SEEKERS GUIDANCE

<https://academy.seekersguidance.org/local/track/?id=39>

(Note: Highly encouraged to register under Shafi'i due to the Majority school of thought followed in Singapore)

### USTAZAH SHAMEEM SULTANAH

<https://www.shameemsultanah.com/>



# Some Branches of Islamic Knowledge

## ISLAMIC CREED (TAWHID)

The word 'Tawhid' comes from the root word "wa-ha-da " which means One. Tawhid means monotheism, to declare the Oneness of Allah being the lord and share any partners in His Lordship. In Tawhid, we also learn the Names and Attributes of Allah to differentiate between Him and His Creation.

## RECITATION OF AL-QURAN (QIRA'AH)

There are different levels of knowledge on reading the Qur'an. From the very basic level of learning the Arabic alphabets and phonetics (Iqra') to reading the Qur'an with full knowledge of Tajwid (set of rules for correct pronunciation)

## TRANSLATION OF AL-QURAN (TAFSIR)

Tafsir is the knowledge of understanding The Holy Qur'an in depth through the works of interpretations by classic Islamic Scholars.

## SAYINGS AND ACTIONS OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD ﷺ (HADITH)

Hadith is the compilation of actions and sayings of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (peace be upon him) that were mainly gathered by his companions around him during his lifetime.

## HISTORY OF THE PROPHET(S) ﷺ (SIRAH)

Sirah is the knowledge of history. There are wide ranges of Sirah, from the Prophets, the companions, men and women around the prophet and the pious people after them.

Specifically, from learning the Sirah of our Beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (peace be upon him), our love for him will increase and we will strive to follow his noble character.

## SPIRITUALITY (TASAWWUF)

Tasawwuf is the purification of the heart from the recurrence creaturely temptations, instilling good character and following the footsteps of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (peace be upon him).

## JURISPRUDENCE (FIQH)

Fiqh in literal translation means understanding. Another meaning for it, is the understanding and knowledge of the guidance and rulings that Allah SWT has placed upon us.

# Books recommended for Basic Islamic Knowledge

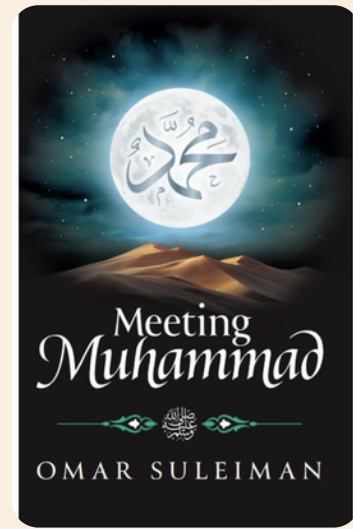


## Sources of guidance

These books we are about to share are some recommendations from the team that may InshaAllah get you started in your journey towards Islam. May it also be a guide for those finding their way back to the right path.

### MEETING MUHAMMAD ﷺ

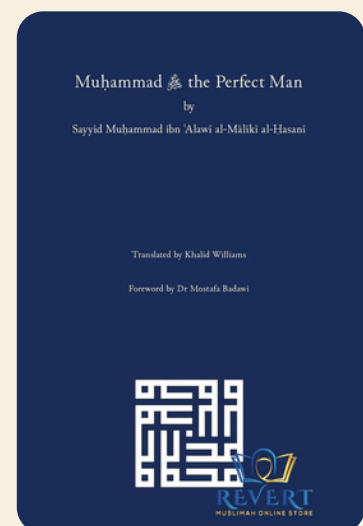
Through 30 beautifully detailed chapters with narrations from companions, take a journey to knowing the Prophet ﷺ and loving him ﷺ and feel what it was like to be a companion of his, in this life and strive to be his companion in the next.



### MUHAMMAD: THE PERFECT MAN (3RD EDITION)

This work shows in meticulous detail the character of the Prophet (Peace be Upon Him); the gentle, kind, merciful, compassionate and considerate man loved by the billion and a half Muslims alive today, who in turn are following in the footsteps of countless other billions who have paved the way over the centuries gone by.

It serves as a timely reminder of the characteristics of the greatest human being that ever lived and presents an insight into the noble Prophetic way, the behavioural code of conduct –the Sunnah– of the Perfect Man.



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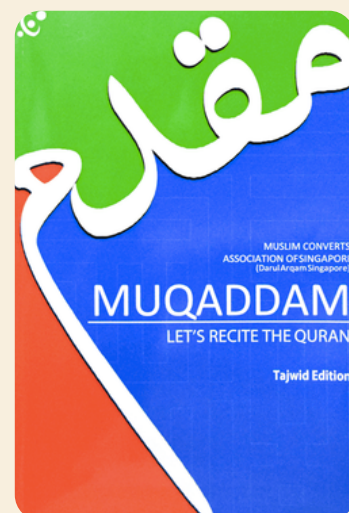
Wardah Books



# Books recommended for Basic Islamic Knowledge

## MUQADDAM, LET'S RECITE THE QUR'AN

In this gem of a guide, there are total of 15 lessons and exercises that will aid you in your journey to mastering the basics of Arabic with complete Arabic colour-coded tajwid,, transliteration and English translation. You can learn Arabic with the dedicated teachers at Darul Arqam with this book as well.



## LET'S PRAY: GUIDEBOOK FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF PRAYER

Darul Arqam, Alhamdulillah has published this guide for all to benefit as a basic prayer guide. These books includes summarised illustrations for the positions in prayer within the various raka'at (Unit of prayer), alongside the first few words to recite for key positions to help the students memorise the steps easily and faster.

This edition also includes the step-by-step illustrations for the respective two, three, and four raka'at prayers. May these guides be useful to all Muslims and especially new converts to Islam.



source:

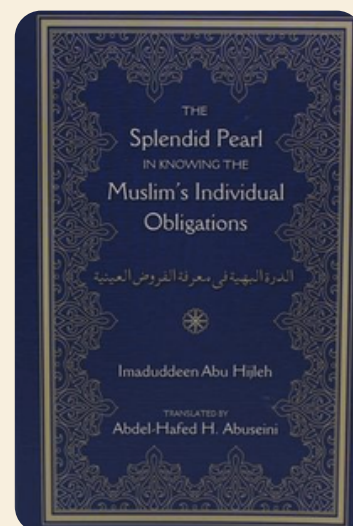
Wardah Books and Darul Arqam



# Books recommended for Basic Islamic Knowledge

## THE SPLENDID PEARL IN KNOWING THE MUSLIM'S INDIVIDUAL OBLIGATIONS

This book is a graceful brief that covers that which is necessary for every Muslim to know of the individual Obligations within the pillars of religion. Belief, Jurisprudence, and Purification that were mentioned in Prophetic Hadith of Jebrael (alayhis-salaam) that is well known as Islam, Iman, and Excellence. The approved belief is the Belief of Ahl-us-Sunna Wal-Jamma'ah. The Jurisprudence Rulings is based on Shafi'i School of Thought. The Obligations of the Heart, as well as the Disobedient Acts of the Extremities as Repentance, are based on that which is agreed upon within the circle of the Scholars of Islamic Spiritual Purification and Education.

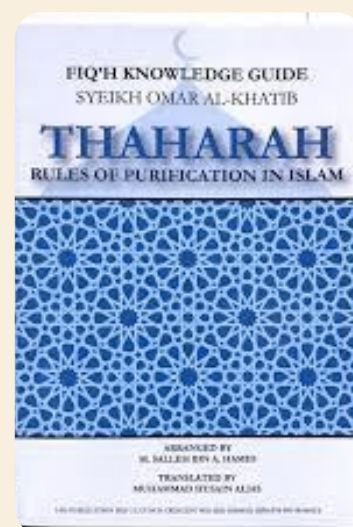


## THAHARAH : RULES OF PURIFICATION IN ISLAM

What are the principles of purification? What is the difference between 'purification' and 'being clean' as a Muslim?

This is the first volume of Fiqh in the Shafi'i madhhab as taught by Sheikh Omar Al-Khatib, the late Singapore scholar.

This volume covers the subject of Thaharah or purity. Purification is essential for Muslims as it is a requirement to be fulfilled before performing our daily prayers.



source:

Wardah Books and Darul Arqam, Islamic Book Store

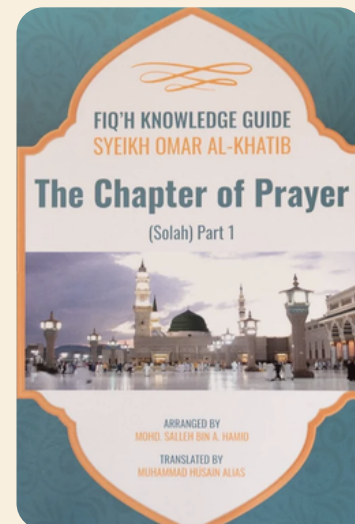


# Books recommended for Basic Islamic Knowledge

## THE CHAPTER OF PRAYER

As the second rukn (requirement) of Islam, prayer is a pillar of the religion and the most eminent of all worshipful acts. It can build good and remove bad character in the individual and society. To perform prayer properly, a person requires learning, training, and acquiring knowledge along with good and honourable behaviour.

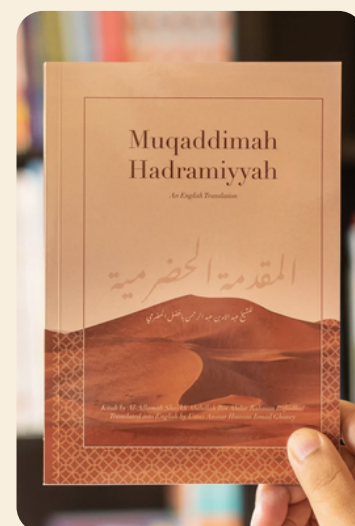
Written in a structured and easy-to-understand manner, this book helps readers refine their prayer and provide many answers to issues and queries encountered by many people in performing their prayer.



## MUQADDIMAH HADHRAMIYYAH (FIQH)

How can one worship him without knowing the rulings of the validity of worship?

This book is an English translation of a classic manual for students beginning to learn Fiqh in the Shafi'i mazhab. Its detailed explanation of the subjects of purification and prayer serves as an important source of rulings to be studied. The field of worship is the most important field in Islamic jurisprudence as it serves the main purpose behind man's creation that is to worship God.



source:

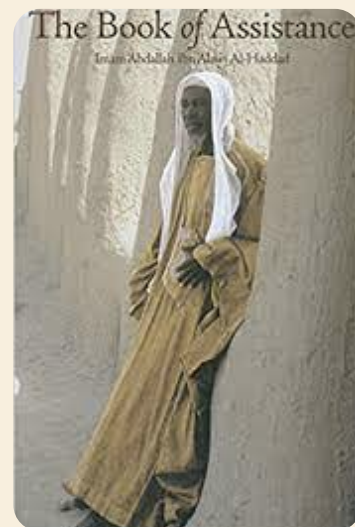
Wardah Books, Darul Arqam and Islamic Book Store

# Books recommended for Basic Islamic Knowledge

## BOOK OF ASSISTANCE BY IMAM AL-HADDAD

There are many books in English which present Sufi doctrine, but few which can be used as practical travel guides along the Path. Originally written in Classical Arabic, the aptly-named Book of Assistance is today in widespread use among Sufi teachers in Arabia, Indonesia and East Africa.

Presented here in the readable translation of Dr. Badawi, this manual of devotions, prayers and practical ethics will be invaluable to all who love the Prophet and the Sufi way.

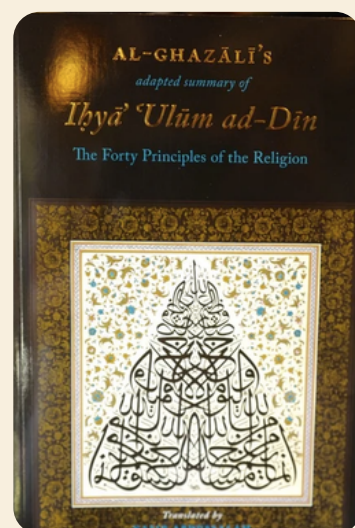


## AL-GHAZALI'S FORTY PRINCIPLES OF THE RELIGION

The Forty Principles of the Religion is a comprehensive distillation of Imam al-Ghazali's magnum opus, This condensed work presents his profound insights regarding man's lifelong struggle to draw closer to Allah in a simple framework, providing the reader with a step-by-step tried and proven method for spiritual development. The result is an essential guide to improving one's relationship with both the Creator and the creation.

The Forty Principles comes in Four Parts

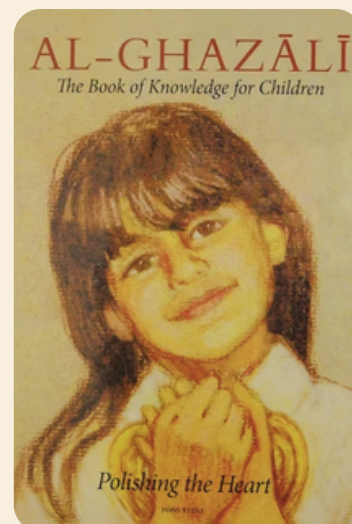
- The Sum of Knowledge and It's Principles,
- Outer Actions,
- Purifying the Heart from Blameworthy Actions,
- Praiseworthy Character Traits



# Books recommended for Basic Islamic Knowledge

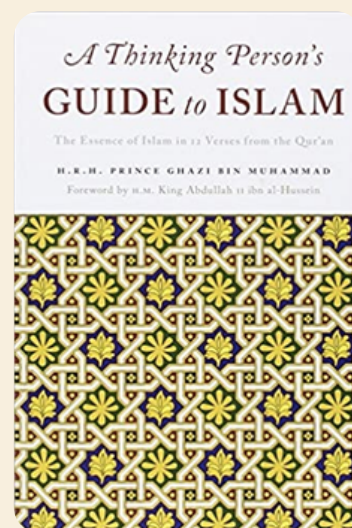
## THE BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE FOR CHILDREN

The Book of Knowledge is said to contain the entire Ihya. Imam al-Ghazali's teachings and metaphors are presented in story form for children of any age, but are also suitable for the spiritual lives of both parents and teachers. Themes that are repeated to emphasize their importance in the 40 stories are concerned with: True Learning itself, the purpose of our brief lives, the Two Worlds, Trust in God's Will, the polishing of the Spiritual Heart through self observation and correction, key virtues and harmful vices, and the responsibility of being a true teacher by putting one's Knowledge into practice.



## THE THINKING PERSONS GUIDE TO ISLAM!

The world is at a crossroads today. A tiny minority of Muslims seems to be bent on hijacking the religion of Islam and bringing it into perpetual conflict with the rest of the world. Because of their actions, very few non-Muslims understand the real difference between Islam as it has always been, and the distorted perversions of Islam today. This book is an attempt to positively say what Islam actually is—and always was—as well as what it is not.



### Disclaimer:

Is it essential for A Muslim to learn Islamic Knowledge through a teacher, not directly from textual material. This is to avoid misinterpretations and also to gain proper understanding of what is written in books.

source:

Darul Arqam and Fons Vitae

