

The Clear Light: Fundamentals of Religious Beliefs	
Author	Ibn Juzayy al-Kalbī - author of <i>al-Tashīl li 'Ulūm al-Tanzīl</i> – a commentary on the Qur'an
Translator	Fahim Hoosen - 'Ālimiyyah (Madrasah Taleemuddeen), BA Hons (University of Johannesburg)
Book's objectives	To mention the evidences and proofs for religious beliefs, primarily from the Qur'an
Importance of faith	<p>Faith is a prerequisite for the acceptance of all righteous deeds</p> <p>Rectification of belief is the most stressed of all obligations that God has imposed on His servants</p>
Establishing the existence of God	<p>Everything indicates and points towards Him</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “In the creation of the heavens and earth ... there are signs in all these for those who use their minds” إِنَّ فِي خَلْقِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاخْتِلَافِ اللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ لَآيَاتٍ لِأُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ - How he sees with his eyes, listens with his ears, speaks with his tongue, holds with his hands, and all the other wonders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is no doubt that there has to be a Planner Who planned this and a Creator Who perfected this - “The creation of the heavens and earth is greater by far than the creation of mankind...” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The sky, the earth, etc., contain a majestic form and amazing wisdoms that cannot be fathomed لَخَلْقُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ أَكْبَرُ مِنْ خَلْقِ النَّاسِ <p>Souls were naturally created with the disposition to recognize God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “And if harm afflicts the people, they call out sincerely to their Lord” وَإِذَا مَسَّ النَّاسَ ضُرٌّ دَعَوْا رَبَّهُمْ
Why things need a creator	<p>It is impossible for a thing to create itself because the creator must come before the thing created and a thing cannot come before itself</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Were they created without any agent? Were they the creators?” أَمْ خُلِقُوا مِنْ غَيْرِ شَيْءٍ أَمْ هُمُ الْخَالِقُونَ <p>It is logically possible for the universe to exist, and it is also possible for it not to exist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Its existence indicates that there must be someone who gave preference to it <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Your Lord creates what He pleases and chooses what He wills” وَرَبُّكَ يَخْلُقُ مَا يَشَاءُ وَيَخْتَارُ

God is not like the creation	<p>If all created beings were to come together to create the smallest of created things, such as an ant, they would not be able to do so</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thus, the creator of all created things is not of their species, but He is greater than them - “Those you call on beside God could not, even if they combined all their forces, create a fly” <p>إِنَّ الَّذِينَ تَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ لَنْ يَخْلُقُوا ذَبَابًا وَلَوْ اجْتَمَعُوا لَهُ</p>
Fiṭrah	<p>Sound disposition with which God created people in terms of their readiness to recognize and accept the truth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “[Prophet], when your Lord took out the offspring from the loins of the Children of Adam and made them bear witness about themselves, He said, ‘Am I not your Lord?’ and they replied, ‘Yes!’” <p>وَإِذَا أَخَذَ رَبُّكَ مِنْ بَنِي آدَمَ مِنْ ظُهُورِهِمْ ذُرِّيَّتَهُمْ وَأَشْهَدَهُمْ عَلَى أَنْفُسِهِمْ أَلَسْتُ بِرَبِّكُمْ قَالُوا بَلَى</p>
Evidence of His Oneness	<p>Everything created is created by one creator, because a single act cannot proceed from two doers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Say, ‘Consider those “partners” of yours that you call upon beside God. Show me! What part of the earth did they create? What share of the heavens do they possess?’” <p>قُلْ أَرَأَيْتُمْ شُرَكَاءَكُمُ الَّذِينَ تَدْعُونَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ أَرُونِي مَاذَا خَلَقُوا مِنَ الْأَرْضِ أَمْ لَهُمْ شِرْكٌ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ</p> <p>If there were two gods, and one of them willed for a certain person to die, whilst the other willed for him to live, the will of neither of them is accomplished, or the will of one of them is accomplished and not the other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “If there had been in the heavens or earth any gods but Him, both heavens and earth would be in ruins” <p>لَوْ كَانَ فِيهِمَا آلِهَةٌ إِلَّا اللَّهُ لَفَسَدَتَا</p> <p>If there were multiple creators, the things created by one of them would be distinct from the things created by the other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We see that all created things subsist in a perfect arrangement and plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Man and all other animals feed off the vegetation produced by the earth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vegetation is nourished by the rain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rain falls from the sky when the winds blow and stir the clouds - This indicates that their creator is one - “God has not taken a son, nor is there with Him any god. If it were so, then every god would have taken what He created and they would have tried to overtake each other” <p>مَا اتَّخَذَ اللَّهُ مِنْ وَلَدٍ وَمَا كَانَ مَعَهُ مِنْ إِلَهٍ إِذَا لَذَهَبَ كُلُّ إِلَهٍ بِمَا خَلَقَ</p>
Disproving that Jesus is God’s son	<p>God has the ability to create a child without a father, just as He was able to create Adam without a mother or father</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “In God’s eyes Jesus is just like Adam: He created him from

	<p>dust, said to him, ‘Be’, and he was” إِنَّ مَثَلَ عِيسَىٰ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ كَمَثَلِ آدَمَ خَلَقَهُ مِنْ تُرَابٍ ثُمَّ قَالَ لَهُ كُنْ فَيَكُونُ</p> <p>A wife must be of the same species as that of her husband</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “The Messiah, son of Mary, was only a messenger; other messengers had come and gone before him; his mother was a virtuous woman; both ate food [like other mortals]” مَا الْمَسِيحُ ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ إِلَّا رَسُولٌ قَدْ خَلَتْ مِنْ قَبْلِهِ الرُّسُلُ وَأُمُّهُ صِدِّيقَةٌ كَانَا يَأْكُلَانِ الطَّعَامَ <p>A spouse and child are only taken when there is a need for them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “They say, ‘God has children!’ May He be exalted! He is the Self-Sufficient One” قَالُوا اتَّخَذَ اللَّهُ وَلَدًا سُبْحَنَهُ هُوَ الْغَنِيُّ
Disproving that God is the Messiah son of Mary	<p>The Messiah used to worship God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “The Messiah himself said, ‘Children of Israel, worship God, my Lord and your Lord”” وَقَالَ الْمَسِيحُ يَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ رَبِّي وَرَبَّكُمْ <p>He used to sleep, eat and drink, become hungry and thirsty and was subject to human issues, all of which are not possible for God Almighty</p> <p>They claimed that he was crucified and killed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God is living and does not die
Disproving God is the third of three	<p>Impossibility of there being two gods due to the previously mentioned evidence</p>
Disproving the idol worshipers	<p>Idols are created things and a created thing cannot be a god</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “He said, ‘How can you worship things you carve with your own hands” قَالَ أَتَعْبُدُونَ مَا تَنْحِتُونَ <p>They do not possess the attributes of divinity such as life, knowledge, power</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Father, why do you worship something that can neither hear nor see nor benefit you in any way?” يَا أَبَتِ لِمَ تَعْبُدُ مَا لَا يَسْمَعُ وَلَا يُبْصِرُ وَلَا يُغْنِي عَنْكَ شَيْئًا <p>They are subject to ruin and degradation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “They protested, ‘Who dared do this to our gods? It must be an evildoer!” قَالُوا مَنْ فَعَلَ هَذَا بِآلِهَتِنَا إِنَّهُ لَمِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ
He SWT can do what He wishes	<p>He is the owner of everything, and an owner can do what He wills with his possessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “He cannot be called to account for anything He does” لَا يُسْأَلُ عَمَّا يَفْعَلُ

Mutashābihāt	<p>He must entrust the knowledge of this to God Almighty Himself and say, “I believe in what God Almighty has said and what His Messenger <small>صلى الله عليه وسلم</small> has told us, in the meaning intended by God and His Messenger <small>صلى الله عليه وسلم</small>”</p> <p>- “Those firmly grounded in knowledge say, ‘We believe in it: it is all from our Lord’”</p> <p>وَالرَّاسِخُونَ فِي الْعِلْمِ يَقُولُونَ آمَنَّا بِهِ</p>
“Yad Allāh”	<p>Approach of earlier scholars - consigned the knowledge of what is meant to God (tafwīḍ)</p> <p>Approach of later scholars - interpreted ‘hand’ to refer to the assistance or power of Allah (ta’wīl)</p> <p>- Did not claim that the interpretation suggested was the intended meaning with certainty</p>
Prophets	<p>The first of them was Adam AS, the father of mankind, and the last of them was Muhammad <small>صلى الله عليه وسلم</small></p> <p>Evidence for their truthfulness in their claim of prophethood was the extraordinary miracles that appeared at their hands</p> <p>- “We sent Our messengers with clear signs”</p> <p>لَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا رُسُلَنَا بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ</p>
Wisdom of sending prophets	<p>God sent the prophets AS to clarify the disagreements between people</p> <p>- “Mankind was a single community, then God sent prophets to bring good news and warning, and with them He sent the Scripture with the Truth, to judge between people in their disagreements”</p> <p>كَانَ النَّاسُ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً فَبَعَثَ اللَّهُ النَّبِيِّينَ مُبَشِّرِينَ وَمُنْذِرِينَ وَأَنْزَلَ مَعَهُمُ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ لِيُحْكُمَ بَيْنَ النَّاسِ فِيمَا اخْتَلَفُوا فِيهِ</p> <p>So the people could know how to worship God and know what to do and what not to do</p> <p>- “We send messengers only to give good news and to warn”</p> <p>وَمَا نُرْسِلُ الْمُرْسَلِينَ إِلَّا مُبَشِّرِينَ وَمُنْذِرِينَ</p> <p>To establish proof against the creation and remove their excuses</p> <p>- “They were messengers bearing good news and warning, so that mankind would have no excuse before God, once the messengers had been sent”</p> <p>رُسُلًا مُبَشِّرِينَ وَمُنْذِرِينَ لِئَلَّا يَكُونَ لِلنَّاسِ عَلَى اللَّهِ حُجَّةٌ بَعْدَ الرُّسُلِ</p> <p>- “Company of jinn and mankind! Did messengers not come from among you to recite My revelations to you and warn that you would meet this Day?”</p> <p>يٰمَعْشَرَ الْجِنِّ وَالْإِنسِ أَلَمْ يَأْتِكُمْ رُسُلٌ مِّنكُمْ يَقُصُّونَ عَلَيْكُمُ آيَاتِي وَيُنْذِرُونَكُمْ لِقَاءَ يَوْمِكُمْ هَٰذَا</p>
Seal of the prophets	<p>By his <small>صلى الله عليه وسلم</small> creed, He abrogated all other creeds; by his <small>صلى الله عليه وسلم</small> sacred law, He sealed all sacred laws</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “If anyone seeks a religion other than [Islam] complete devotion to God, it will not be accepted from him” وَمَنْ يَبْتَغِ غَيْرَ الْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ
Proofs of his prophethood	<p>The Qur'an proves the validity of his prophethood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Its eloquence, purity of style, and arrangement distinguish it from all other speech - Failure to produce something similar to it, despite their eagerness to falsify it, and notwithstanding the eloquence of the Arabs in that era <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evidence that it is beyond the capacity of human beings - “Say, ‘Even if all mankind and jinn came together to produce something like this Qur'an, they could not produce anything like it, however much they helped each other.’” قل لئن اجتمعت الإنس والجن على أن يأتوا بمثل هذا القرآن - Stories of the prophets and others, which could not have been known except by revelation from God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “These accounts are part of what was beyond your knowledge [Muhammad]. We revealed them to you. Neither you nor your people knew them before now” تِلْكَ مِنْ أَنْبَاءِ الْغَيْبِ نُوحِيهَا إِلَيْكَ مَا كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُهَا أَنْتَ وَلَا قَوْمُكَ مِنْ قَبْلِ هَذَا - Mentioned unseen events that had not yet occurred and thereafter occurred exactly as it had predicted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “You will most certainly enter the Sacred Mosque” - Its being protected from replacement and change, unlike other scriptures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “We have sent down the Qur'an Ourselves, and We Ourselves will guard it” إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ - Its having been made easy to remember <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “We have made the Qur'an easy to remember. But is there any rememberer there?” وَلَقَدْ يَسَّرْنَا الْقُرْآنَ لِلذِّكْرِ فَهَلْ مِنْ مُدَكِّرٍ <p>The miracles and clear signs that appeared at his hands <small>صلى الله عليه وسلم</small></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God did not give any prophet a miracle except that he gave Muhammad <small>صلى الله عليه وسلم</small> a similar type of miracle that was either better or equal to it <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The moon splitting, water gushing from between his fingers, satiating a large number with a minimal quantity of food, predictions about matters that later occurred exactly as he said <p>Mention of him found in the Torah and the Gospel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Those who follow the Messenger- the unlettered prophet they find described in the Torah that is with them, and in the Gospel” الَّذِينَ يَتَّبِعُونَ الرَّسُولَ النَّبِيَّ الْأُمِّيَّ الَّذِي يَجِدُونَهُ مَكْتُوبًا عِنْدَهُمْ فِي التَّوْرَةِ وَالْإِنْجِيلِ

	<p>Extraordinary feats that appear at the hands of the righteous ones of his <small>صلى الله عليه وسلم</small> community, all of which indicate to the truthfulness of their prophet</p> <p>The fact that he <small>صلى الله عليه وسلم</small> was an illiterate Arab is more indicative, as he produced wisdom and knowledge without any previous learning and without prior knowledge of scripture</p>
Types of miracles of the Prophet <small>صلى الله عليه وسلم</small>	<p>Those that we know definitively, such as the splitting of the moon, because the Qur'an explicitly mentions it</p> <p>Those we have definitive knowledge of their collective purport, although each individual incident is not such</p>
Refuting the Jews	<p>Jews denied the prophethood of our Prophet <small>صلى الله عليه وسلم</small> by denying abrogation and claiming that the sacred law of Moses AS cannot be repealed by any other sacred law, as abrogation entails inconstancy in the divine will, which is impossible for God Almighty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Abrogation does not imply inconstancy in the divine will, rather, it is similar to when a master instructs his slave to perform some task, and later instructs him to do another task - "God erases or confirms whatever He wills" <small>يَمْحُو اللَّهُ مَا يَشَاءُ وَيُثَبِّتُ</small> - Their sacred law had abrogated those before it <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the time of of Adam AS it was permitted for a man to marry his sister due to the necessity of procreation, and thereafter this was prohibited - The religion of Islam is the religion of Abraham <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "People of the Book, why do you argue about Abraham when the Torah and the Gospels were not revealed until after his time?...Abraham was neither a Jew nor a Christian" <small>يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ لِمَ تُحَاجُّونَ فِي إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَمَا أُنْزِلَتِ التَّوْرَةُ وَالْإِنْجِيلُ إِلَّا مِنْ بَعْدِهِ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ</small> - The Jews and the Christians had altered and changed their religion and differed therein <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Truly, this Quran explains to the Children of Israel most of what they differ about" <small>إِنَّ هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ يَفْصُلُ عَلَى بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَكْثَرَ الَّذِي هُمْ فِيهِ يَخْتَلِفُونَ</small> - Some Jews acknowledged the prophethood of Muhammad <small>صلى الله عليه وسلم</small> but they say that, "He was only sent to the Arabs specifically" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If a person acknowledges his prophethood, he is bound to accept everything he says and the Prophet <small>صلى الله عليه وسلم</small> informed us that he was sent to all of mankind
Angels	<p>Belief in the angels is obligatory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Anyone who does not believe in God, His angels, His Scriptures, His messengers, and the Last Day has gone far, far astray"

	وَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِاللَّهِ وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ وَكُتُبِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ فَقَدْ ضَلَّ ضَلَالًا بَعِيدًا
Ahl al-Sunnah wa al-Jamā'ah	<p>The people of the way and the group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The 'way' signifies that of the Prophet ﷺ and the 'group' refers to the ṣaḥābah, the tābi'īn, and those after them represented by the main spectrum of Muslims in every age
Khulafā'	<p>They were the best of people after the Messenger of God ﷺ in order of their Caliphate</p> <p>As for the discord that arose between 'Alī RA and Mu'āwiyah RA, including the companions who sided with each of them, we should hold the best of thoughts about both groups and maintain that despite this, it was 'Alī who was on the right</p>
Possibility of the Afterlife	<p>God Almighty has the ability to restore bodies after their annihilation, just as He was able to create them the first time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Say, 'He who created them in the first place will give them life again'" <p>قُلْ يُحْيِيهَا الَّذِي أَنْشَأَهَا أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ</p> <p>God Almighty had the ability to create the heavens and the earth, which undoubtedly are larger than the creation of man</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Do the disbelievers not understand that God, who created the heavens and earth and did not tire in doing so, has the power to bring the dead back to life? Yes indeed!" <p>أَوَلَمْ يَرَوْا أَنَّ اللَّهَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَمْ يَعْْيَ بِخَلْقِهِنَّ بِقَادِرٍ عَلَىٰ أَنْ يُحْيِيَ الْمَوْتَىٰ ۚ بَلَىٰ إِنَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ</p> <p>God Almighty gives life to the earth by the rain after its death</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "...how with water We give life to a land that is dead? This is how the dead will emerge [from their graves]" <p>وَأَحْيَيْنَا بِهِ بَلْدَةً مَّيْتًا كَذَلِكَ الْخُرُوجُ</p>
Wisdom of resurrection	<p>People differ with one another</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God will resurrect them to establish the truth and decide between them - "It is your Lord who will judge between them on the Day of Resurrection concerning their differences" <p>إِنَّ رَبَّكَ يَقْضِي بَيْنَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فِيمَا كَانُوا فِيهِ يَخْتَلِفُونَ</p> <p>Had there been no resurrection and reward in the hereafter there would be no distinction between the righteous ones and the evil ones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Should We treat those who submit to Us as We treat those who do evil?" <p>أَفَنَجْعَلُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ كَالْمُجْرِمِينَ</p>
Seeing Allah	<p>The people of paradise will see God Almighty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "On that Day there will be radiant faces, looking towards their Lord"

	وَجُوهٌ يَوْمَئِذٍ نَاضِرَةٌ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهَا نَاطِرَةٌ
Advice to strengthen conviction	<p>Recite the Qur'an, ponder deeply over its verses and comprehend its meanings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "This Quran does indeed show the straightest way" إِنَّ هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ يَهْدِي لِلَّتِي هِيَ أَقْوَمُ <p>Read the traditions of the Messenger of God ﷺ, study his biography, comprehend his speech, and follow his way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Say, 'If you love God, follow me, and God will love you and forgive you your sins'" قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ <p>Perseverance in acts of obedience, avoidance of sins and bad deeds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "No indeed! Their hearts are encrusted with what they have done" كَلَّا بَلْ رَانَ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِهِمْ مَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ - "But God increases in guidance those who follow the Right Way" وَيَزِيدُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ اهْتَدَوْا هُدًى

AR