

فَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّهُ
KNOW
YOUR
LORD

The One and Only

IMAM KARIM ABU ZAID

Edited by
JIMI ABDULLAH



DAKWAH CORNER
BOOKSTORE

Published by:
Dakwah Corner Bookstore (M) Sdn. Bhd.
No. 7, Jalan Dato Abdul Aziz, Section 14,
46100 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan,
MALAYSIA
T: +603-7956 4664

1st Published: 2023	ISBN: 978-629-7545-02-8	Typesetting: Penerbit Begawan
Title: Know Your Lord	Edited by: Jimi Abdullah	Printed by: Fussian Advertising & Printing Sdn. Bhd.
Author: Imam Karim Abu Zaid	Cover Design: Norashikin Yussof	For suggestions and comments: dakwahcornerpublications @gmail.com

Showroom Outlets:

MALAYSIA

Dakwah Corner Bookstore
Section 14, Petaling Jaya,
Selangor D.E
Tel : +603 7956 4664

Ampang Point
Shopping Centre
Tel: +603-4266 9692

SAUDI ARABIA

Dakwah Corner Bookstore
Makkah Commercial Centre,
Holy Makkah
Tel: +966 125311 895

NIGERIA

Dakwah Islamic Bookshop
UAC Building, Abuja
Tel: +234 805 603 7779

PHILIPPINES

Dakwah Corner Bookstore
Falcatan Street Tetuan
Zamboanga City
Tel: +63 926 5284

Distributors:

Darussalam

Australia
Australia
Tel: +61 2 9740 7188

**Salaam Media
International**

Singapore
Tel: +65 6396 4121

Darusalam Publishers

USA
Tel: +1 860 224 2400

Darussalam Books

(London Central
Mosque) UK
Tel: +44 2077231234



Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia

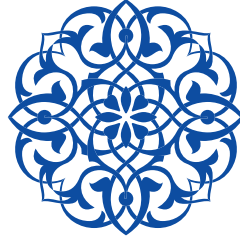
A catalogue record for this book is available
from the National Library of Malaysia

ISBN 978-629-7545-02-8

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Copyright © 2023 Dakwah Corner Bookstore (M) Sdn. Bhd.

No part of this publication may be produced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the Publisher.



Foreword

Dr. Bilal Philips

Shaykh Karim Abu Zaid's book *Know Your Lord* is a worthy addition to the growing body of Islamic literature in English available on *Tawhīd* (Monotheism) and *Aqīdah* (Beliefs), from 40 years ago in the early 80's when I wrote *The Fundamentals of Tawhīd*. In those days, the only available book was the translation of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Abdul Wahab's *Kitab at-Tawhīd* (a teaching manual on *Tawhīd* with very little explanation) which he had prepared for his students. It consisted of a concise compilation of Quranic verses and narrations (*Ahadith*) on various topics of Monotheism which the average English reader at that time would have difficulty following. In fact, when I wrote *The Fundamentals of Tawhīd*, which was based on various commentaries on Shaykh Muhammad ibn Abdul Wahab's teaching manual as well as other works like *Sharh al-'Aqīdah at-Tahawīyyah*, I couldn't find any Muslim publisher willing to publish it in either the UK or the USA. Eventually, I had to publish it myself.

Shaykh Karim Abu Zaid's book *Know Your Lord* is notable among the English Islamic literature available on *Tawhīd* and *'Aqīdah*—in that it is comprehensive, yet concise. Shaykh Karim covers many topics which are necessary for students of knowledge, as well as the average Muslim. It is a compilation from many classical texts, which are then related to contemporary issues, similar to the methodology used in my work on the subject.

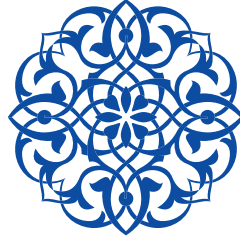
The reader will greatly benefit from learning the proper methodologies of understanding the true principles of Islamic theological beliefs, realities, and characteristics of Allah ﷻ. Furthermore, extensive information, and instructions are provided to ensure that Muslims do not fall into error, and deviations regarding Allah ﷻ and His Names and Attributes.

In summary, it is a good effort of one of my students on the critical subject of knowing our Lord. May Allah ﷻ bless all who contributed to it and all who read it.

Dr Bilal Philips is an Islamic scholar, teacher, speaker, author, and the founder and chancellor of the International Open University.

www.iou.edu.gm





Foreword

Shaykh Jalal Abualrub

All thanks and praises are due to Allah ﷻ, Creator of all things, and may Allah's ﷻ Honor, Mercy and Blessings be on all of His Prophets, starting with Adam ﷺ, passing through Nūh (Noah) ﷺ, 'Ibrāhīm (Abraham) ﷺ, Musa (Moses) ﷺ, and Isa (Jesus) ﷺ, and ending with Muhammad ﷺ, Allah's ﷻ final Prophet and Messenger.

Knowing the Creator of everything is an essential part of 'Imān, that is, the Islamic Faith. By knowing Allah ﷻ, we, His creation, are able to recognize His Might, Majesty, infinite Power, and Ability, and that He is the Only Creator and Sustainer of all creations.

Knowing that the Creator of everything is One, the only One, directs us to recognize that He is the only One Who deserves to be worshiped, and that all acts of worship should only be directed at Him, Alone, without partners.

Knowing the Creator of everything by His Names and Attributes, fills our hearts with His Might, Power, Mercy, Forgiveness, Generosity, and His other infinite qualities, directing us to have a fear of the Creator, and obedience to Him in anticipation of His aid, protection, and rewards.

Knowing that the Creator of everything is the One Who Alone guides His creation ultimately leads them to certain knowledge that He has sent a prophet to every nation that existed, and guides humankind through His Revelations to their One and Only Creator. Allah's ﷺ Prophets and Revelations inform His creation about His Names, Attributes, warnings, promises, actions, commandments, and news of the past, the present, and the future, especially the greatest Day of all time, the Day of Judgment, when all creations stand between the Hands of Allah for judgment. Therefore, knowing the Creator is an essential aspect of 'Imān, that is, the Islamic Faith. Allah ﷻ said in the Quran:

﴿ذَٰلِكُمْ اللَّهُ رَبُّكُمْ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ خَلَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ فَأَعْبُدُوهُ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَكِيلٌ﴾⁽¹⁾

“Such is Allah, your Lord! La ilaha illa Huwa (none has the right to be worshiped but He), the Creator of all things. So worship Him (Alone), and He is the Wakil (Trustee, Disposer of affairs, Guardian, etc.) over all things.”⁽¹⁾

I have known Shaykh Karim Abu Zaid for well over a decade. We need people of knowledge like Shaykh Karim, those who have intimate knowledge of the original Islamic resources, all of which are in Arabic, in addition to being apprised of Western culture and the English language.

¹ Surah al-'An'ām (6:102), Hilali transl.

In addition to being an Imām of one of the biggest Islamic centers in Denver, Colorado, Shaykh Karim travels to various Islamic centers and masjids in the United States to deliver Friday speeches and give lectures on various aspects of Islam, preaching the Quran and Prophet Muhammad’s ﷺ Sunnah.

Even though Shaykh Karim is busy being the *Imām* and teacher of his local community, he has authored several beneficial books in English teaching and explaining Islam. However, the Islamic library in English is very modest in size and scope in comparison to the Islamic library in Arabic, which consists of hundreds of thousands of books. Therefore there is a great need for people of knowledge to translate many more classical works on Islam, as well as, authoring books that discuss all aspects of Islam addressed to today’s audiences and challenges.

I ask Allah ﷻ to reward Shaykh Karim for his efforts, and benefit Muslims and non-Muslims with his knowledge and the books he has authored and translated.

All thanks are due to Allah ﷻ, the Creator of all things, and may His Honor, Blessings, Peace and Mercy be on Muhammad ﷺ, Allah’s ﷻ final Prophet and Messenger.

Shaykh Jalal Abualrub is an Islamic scholar, teacher, and author and translator of nearly 60 books under the project: Explaining Islam to the World.

www.islamlife.com



مقدمة

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا
وَسَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا، مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ،
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.

﴿يَأَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ ۖ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ﴾

[سورة آل عمران: ١٠٢]

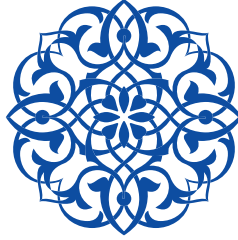
﴿يَأَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَجِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا
رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً ۚ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا﴾

[سورة النساء: ١]

﴿يَأَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا ﴿٧٠﴾ يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ
وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ ۗ وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا ﴿٧١﴾﴾

[سورة الأحزاب: ٧١-٧٠]

فَإِنَّ أَصْدَقَ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابُ اللَّهِ، وَأَحْسَنَ الْهَدْيِ هَدْيُ مُحَمَّدٍ ﷺ، وَشَرَّ
الْأُمُورِ مُحَدَّثَاتُهَا، وَكُلُّ مُحَدَّثَةٍ بِدْعَةٌ، وَكُلُّ بِدْعَةٍ ضَلَالَةٌ، وَكُلُّ ضَلَالَةٍ فِي
النَّارِ.



Preface

The title *Know Your Lord* cannot be understood without defining the scope of the terms involved. The guided way a person may acquire knowledge about Allah ﷻ is through Revelation. No one can see Allah ﷻ in this world, so knowledge of Him must come through Revelation, not perception. This statement automatically discounts divinity from objects and humans, and brings us a big step closer to knowing our Lord through the pursuit of knowledge. The Prophet ﷺ said, “**Be informed that none of you can see Allah until you die.**”⁽²⁾ The Prophet ﷺ made that statement in the context of warning us against the Anti-Christ (*al-Masīḥ ad-Dajjāl*) who will try to convince people that he is God. The point of the Prophet’s ﷺ warning is that if a person claims to be God in this life, then that person is automatically a liar. Allah ﷻ said:

﴿أَمْ خُلِقُوا مِنْ غَيْرِ شَيْءٍ أَمْ هُمُ الْخَالِقُونَ ﴿٣٥﴾
 أَمْ خَلَقُوا السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ ۗ بَلْ لَا يُوقِنُونَ ﴿٣٦﴾﴾

² Muslim (7356); Tirmidhi (2235).

“Or were they created by nothing, or were they the creators [of themselves]? Or did they create the heavens and the earth? Rather, they are not certain.”⁽³⁾

The answer to these questions is clear to anyone with a sound mind.

When one looks at the creation of Allah ﷻ, two conclusions are inescapable: there must be a Creator, and the attributes and qualities of the creation cannot be equal to or like the Creator. Allah ﷻ said:

﴿أَفَمَنْ يَخْلُقُ كَمَنْ لَا يَخْلُقُ أَفَلَا تَذَكَّرُونَ﴾

“Then is He who creates like one who does not create? So will you not be reminded?”⁽⁴⁾

Allah ﷻ also said:

﴿وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ﴾

“And they encompass not a thing of His knowledge except for what He wills.”⁽⁵⁾

This means that we cannot gain any knowledge about Allah ﷻ and the reward that ensues from fidelity to that knowledge except through that which comes to us from Allah ﷻ Himself through Revelation. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, **“There is nothing by means of which one may draw close to Paradise (*Jannah*) and move far away from Hell (*Jahannam*) but it has been explained to you.”⁽⁶⁾**

³ Surah at-Ṭūr (52:35-36). Sahih International transl.

⁴ Surah an-Naḥl (16:17), Sahih International transl.

⁵ Surah al-Baqarah (2:255), Sahih International transl.

⁶ At-Tabarani in *Al-Kabir* (1647), *Sahih* by Al-Albani.