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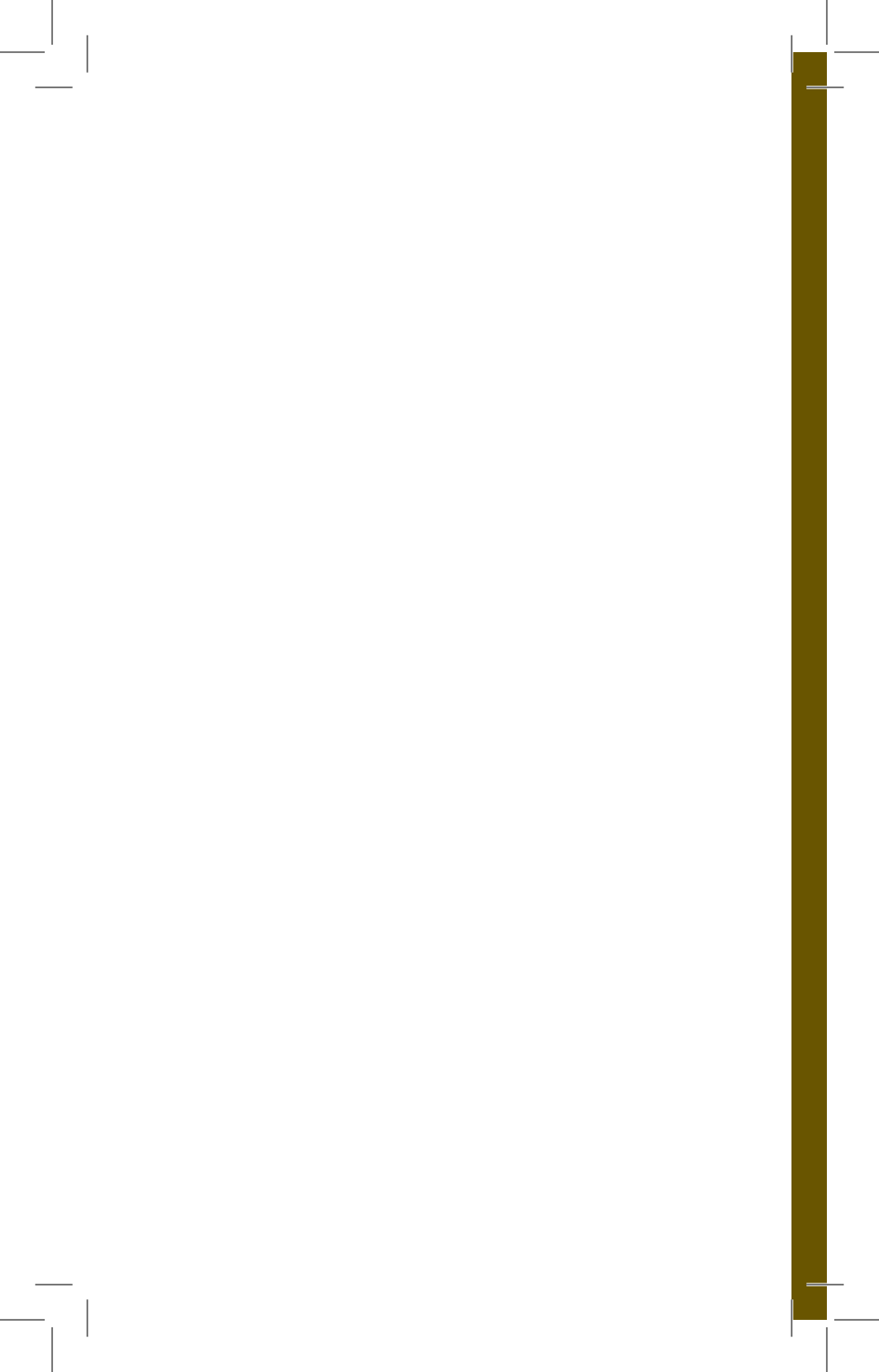


THE CONDITIONS OF LAA ILAAHA ILLALLAH

by

Jamaal al-Din Zarabozo





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INTRODUCTION

Every Muslim knows that the key to Paradise is the statement, "There is none worthy of worship except Allah."

Yet too many Muslims simply rely upon this statement and believe that as long as they have made this statement, nothing will harm them. They think will be granted Paradise because of this mere verbal statement of the Shahaadah.

There is no question that the mere saying of, "I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except Allah and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and messenger," is not sufficient



for salvation. In fact, the hypocrites used to make this statement quite often yet Allah describes them as liars and says that they shall abide in the lowest abyss of the Hellfire.

As many scholars state, though, this statement or testimony is the key to Paradise. The famous Taabi'i ¹ Wahb ibn Munabbih was once asked, "Isn't the statement of laa ilaaha illAllah the key to Paradise?"

He answered, "Yes, but every key has ridges. If you come with the key that has the right ridges, the door will open for you. Yet if you do not have the right ridges the door will not open for you."

That is, it is saying [while meeting] certain conditions. These conditions are what will differentiate the person who will benefit from his making of that statement from the one who will not benefit from that statement, no matter

1 Taabi'I, pl. Taabi'oon: Literally, follower. The generation who succeeded the Sahaabah, or Companions of the Prophet ().



how many times a day he may have made that statements.

Before discussing the conditions of the Shahaadah, there is one more point that I feel compelled to make.

That is, some people have a tendency to take one hadeeth or one verse and then based on that one text, they will make some conclusion that, for exam ple, whoever simply says, "There is no God except Allah," will enter Paradise.

But, actually, we should all realize that all of the Qur'aan and Hadeeth complement each other and explain one another.

To find the correct position on any one question, one must bring together all of the related verses and hadeeth and see what the true Islamic position is of that question. The same is true for the conditions of the shahaadah.

If we study the verses of the Qur'aan and the Hadeeth of the Prophet ﷺ we will find that the conditions of the