Introduction

→ Author: Shaykh al-Islam Ahmad ibn Abdul-Halim ibn Abdul-Salam ibn Taymiyyah al-Harrani (1263-1328 C.E., 661-728 A.H.), may Allah have mercy on him.

→ Aqeedah Al-Wasitiyyah means The Wasitiyyah Creed.

→ It teaches the beliefs of Ahlus-Sunnah wal-Jamaah using the Quran and authentic Sunnah as understood by the Salaf.

→ Main subjects: Tawheed, Allah's Names and Attributes, the Quran, seeing Allah, the Hereafter, Qadar, Iman, the Companions, Ahl al-Bayt, Awliya and the manners of Ahlus-Sunnah.

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Tawheed – The Foundation

→ Tawheed means singling out Allah alone in everything that belongs only to Him.

→ Three categories: Lordship - Allah alone creates, provides and controls; Worship - every act of worship is for Allah alone; Names and Attributes - believe what the Quran and Sunnah affirm about Allah.

→ The Quran teaches Tawheed throughout: information about Allah, worship, commands and prohibitions, rewards of Tawheed and warnings about Shirk.

→ Correct worship needs two conditions: sincerity to Allah alone and following Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

→ Shirk is the opposite of Tawheed. The notes explain Major Shirk, Minor Shirk and hidden Shirk.

Evidence: Al-Baqarah 2:133; An-Nahl 16:51; Al-Maidah 5:73; Ibrahim 14:35; hadith of Muadh in Sahih al-Bukhari; hadith 'Whoever does a deed...' in Sahih Muslim 1718.

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Bismillah

→ Bismillah means 'In the Name of Allah.'

→ Four reasons to begin with it: following the Quran, following the Prophet ﷺ, following the scholars and seeking Allah's blessing.

→ Three Names: Allah - the One who alone deserves worship; Ar-Rahman - vast mercy; Ar-Raheem - special mercy to His believing servants.

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Six Foundations of Iman

→ Belief in Allah.

→ Belief in His angels.

→ Belief in His Books.

→ Belief in His Messengers.

→ Belief in resurrection after death.

→ Belief in Qadar, what is good and what is difficult.

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Allah's Names and Attributes – Main Rule

→ Accept everything Allah says about Himself and everything authentically taught by Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

→ Do not make Allah like His creation.

→ Do not change the intended meaning (Tahreef).

→ Do not deny an Attribute (Tateel).

→ Do not try to describe exactly how an Attribute is (Takyeef).

→ Do not compare Allah's Attributes to creation (Tamtheel).

Evidence: Ash-Shura 42:11 - nothing is like Allah and He is the All-Hearing, All-Seeing; As-Saffat 37:180-182.

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Affirmation and Negation

→ Affirmation: confirm the perfect Names and Attributes Allah affirmed.

→ Negation: deny every imperfection from Allah.

→ Ahlus-Sunnah use both because revelation uses both.

Evidence: Al-Ikhlas 112:1-4 affirms Allah's Oneness and perfection and denies birth, children and any equal.

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Ayat al-Kursi – Major Attributes

→ Allah alone deserves worship.

→ Al-Hayy: Ever-Living. Al-Qayyum: sustains and maintains everything.

→ No drowsiness or sleep.

→ Complete ownership, knowledge, permission, preservation, highness and greatness.

→ No one intercedes except by Allah's permission.

Evidence: Al-Baqarah 2:255.

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Life, **Knowledge**, **Power and Provision**

→ Allah's perfect Life never ends.

→ Allah is the First, the Last, the Most High and the Near.

→ Allah's Knowledge covers what enters and leaves the earth and heaven, land and sea and everything hidden.

→ Allah has power over all things.

→ Allah is the Provider and possesses perfect strength.

Evidence: Al-Furqan 25:58; Al-Hadid 57:3; Saba 34:2; Al-Anam 6:59; Fatir 35:11; At-Talaq 65:12; Adh-Dhariyat 51:58.

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Hearing, **Seeing and Will**

→ Allah truly hears and sees in a perfect way unlike creation.

→ Nothing is hidden from Allah.

→ Whatever Allah wills happens and whatever He does not will does not happen.

→ Allah's Will is connected to His perfect Wisdom.

Evidence: Ash-Shura 42:11; An-Nisa 4:58.

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Love, Mercy, Pleasure and Anger

→ Allah truly loves in a way suitable for His Majesty.

→ Allah's Mercy is vast.

→ Allah is pleased with whom He wills and is angry with whom He wills in a perfect way suitable for Him.

→ These Attributes are accepted without comparing them to human feelings.

Evidence: Al-Baqarah 2:222; Al Imran 3:31; Al-Maidah 5:54, 5:119; Al-Buruj 85:14; Al-Araf 7:156; Al-Anam 6:54; Yunus 10:107; An-Nisa 4:93; Muhammad 47:28; Az-Zukhruf 43:55.

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Allah's Coming, Face, Hands and Eyes

→ The Quran affirms Allah's Coming, Face, Hands and Eyes in a way suitable for Him.

→ We affirm the texts without asking how and without comparing Allah to creation.

Evidence: Al-Baqarah 2:210; Al-Fajr 89:21-22; Al-Qasas 28:88; Sad 38:75; Al-Maidah 5:64; At-Tur 52:48; Al-Qamar 54:13-14; Ta Ha 20:39.

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Allah Hears and Sees Everything

→ Allah heard the woman who complained to the Prophet ﷺ.

→ Allah hears what people say.

→ Allah sees His servants and their deeds.

→ His Hearing and Seeing are complete.

Evidence: Al-Mujadalah 58:1; Al Imran 3:181; Al-Alaq 96:14; Ash-Shuara 26:218-220; At-Tawbah 9:105.

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Power, Planning, Forgiveness and Pardon

→ Allah is mighty in power.

→ Allah's planning against those who plot against the truth is perfect and just.

→ Allah is Forgiving and Pardoning and has complete power.

Evidence: Ar-Rad 13:13; Al Imran 3:54; An-Naml 27:50; At-Tariq 86:15-16; An-Nisa 4:149; An-Nur 24:22.

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Allah's Complete Oneness

→ No one is equal or comparable to Allah.

→ Believers have the strongest love for Allah.

→ Allah has no child, no partner and no need for a protector because of weakness.

→ Do not make comparisons for Allah.

Evidence: Maryam 19:65; Al-Ikhlas 112:4; Al-Baqarah 2:165; Al-Isra 17:111; Al-Furqan 25:1-2; Al-Muminun 23:91-92; An-Nahl 16:74.

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Allah Is Above the Throne

→ Allah is above His creation and above His Throne in a way suitable for His Majesty.

→ His rising over the Throne is true and is not compared to creation.

→ Allah's Highness does not prevent His complete Knowledge of creation.

Evidence: Al-Araf 7:54; Yunus 10:3; Ar-Rad 13:2; Ta Ha 20:5; Al-Furqan 25:59; As-Sajdah 32:4; Al-Hadid 57:4.

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Evidence of Allah's Highness

→ Allah raised Isa عليه السلام to Himself.

→ The Quran contains repeated evidence of Allah's Highness above creation.

Evidence: Al Imran 3:55; An-Nisa 4:158; Ghafir 40:36-37; Al-Mulk 67:16-17.

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Allah Is With His Creation

→ Allah is with His creation through His complete Knowledge, Hearing, Seeing, care, support and help as the context shows.

→ This does not contradict Allah being above His Throne.

→ Special support is mentioned for the Prophet ﷺ, Musa and Harun عليهما السلام, people of Taqwa and those who are patient.

Evidence: Al-Hadid 57:4; Al-Mujadalah 58:7; At-Tawbah 9:40; Ta Ha 20:46; An-Nahl 16:128; Al-Anfal 8:46.

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Allah Speaks

→ Allah truly speaks in a way suitable for Him.

→ Allah spoke directly to Musa عليه السلام.

→ Allah spoke to Messengers and will speak on the Day of Judgment.

→ No speech is more truthful than Allah's.

Evidence: An-Nisa 4:87, 4:122, 4:164; Al-Maidah 5:116; Al-Baqarah 2:253; Al-Araf 7:143; Maryam 19:52; Ash-Shuara 26:10; Al-Qasas 28:62, 65.

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The Quran Is the Speech of Allah

→ The Quran is Allah's Speech.

→ It was revealed by Allah and is not created.

→ It came from Allah and returns to Him.

→ Its words and meanings are Allah's Speech.

Evidence: At-Tawbah 9:6; Al-Baqarah 2:75; Al-Fath 48:15; Al-Kahf 18:27; An-Naml 27:76; Al-Anam 6:92; Al-Hashr 59:21; An-Nahl 16:101-103.

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Believers Will See Allah

→ The believers will truly see Allah in the Hereafter.

→ This is one of the greatest rewards of Paradise.

→ The seeing is real in the way Allah wills.

Evidence: Al-Qiyamah 75:22-23; Al-Mutaffifin 83:35; Yunus 10:26; Qaf 50:35.

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The Sunnah Supports and Explains the Quran

→ Authentic Sunnah explains and clarifies the Quran.

→ Authentic hadith about Allah's Attributes are accepted without distortion, denial, asking how or resemblance.

→ The notes include hadith about Allah's descent in the last third of the night, pleasure with repentance, laughter, the Attribute mentioned concerning the Foot, calling Adam عليه السلام and direct speech.

Evidence: Authentic narrations in Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim as listed in the study notes.

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Highness and Closeness in the Sunnah

→ The Sunnah contains evidence for Allah's Highness.

→ Allah is also near to His servants in a way suitable for Him.

→ His closeness does not contradict His Highness.

→ Allah hears the servants and answers Dua.

Evidence: Al-Baqarah 2:186; hadith of the servant woman in Sahih Muslim; narrations listed in the notes from Abu Dawud and authentic hadith about Dhikr.

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The Middle Way of Ahlus-Sunnah

→ Ahlus-Sunnah avoid opposite extremes.

→ They affirm Allah's Attributes without resemblance and without denial.

→ They also follow a balanced path in Qadar, Iman, the Companions and other matters of belief.

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The Hereafter

→ Believe everything authentically taught about what happens after death.

→ Main matters: test of the grave, resurrection, gathering, records, scales, Hawd, intercession, Sirat, Paradise and the Fire.

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The Grave, Resurrection and Gathering

→ A person is tested in the grave about the Lord, religion and Prophet.

→ There is blessing for whom Allah blesses and punishment for whom it is deserved.

→ People will be raised and gathered before Allah for judgment.

Evidence: Ar-Rum 30:25.

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Scales and Records

→ Deeds will be weighed.

→ Those whose scales are heavy succeed.

→ Each person will receive and read a record of deeds.

Evidence: Al-Muminun 23:102-103; Al-Isra 17:13-14.

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Hawd, Intercession and Sirat

→ Prophet Muhammad ﷺ will have a great Hawd on the Day of Judgment.

→ Intercession is true but belongs to Allah and only happens with His permission.

→ The greatest intercession is given to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

→ The Sirat is a real bridge over Hell and people cross according to their deeds and Allah's mercy.

→ Paradise and the Fire are real and already created.

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Qadar – Four Levels

→ 1. Knowledge: Allah has always known everything.

→ 2. Writing: Allah wrote the decrees of creation.

→ 3. Will: whatever Allah wills happens and whatever He does not will does not happen.

→ 4. Creation: Allah created everything, including servants, their abilities and actions.

→ People still have a real will and make real choices for which they are responsible.

Evidence: Al-Hajj 22:70; Al-Hadid 57:22; At-Takwir 81:28-29.

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Iman

→ Iman includes belief in the heart, speech of the tongue and actions of the body.

→ Iman increases with obedience and decreases with sin.

→ Ahlus-Sunnah do not treat every sin as taking a Muslim outside Islam.

→ Serious judgments about individuals require qualified scholarship and are not for students to make.

Evidence: Al-Anfal 8:2.

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The Companions رضي الله عنهم

→ Love the Companions and speak well of them.

→ Best after the Prophet ﷺ: Abu Bakr, then Umar, then Uthman, then Ali رضي الله عنهم.

→ Affirm the leadership of all four rightly guided Caliphs.

→ Recognize the virtues of the Muhajirun, Ansar, people of Badr and the pledge under the tree.

→ Handle disagreements among the Companions with justice and respect.

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Ahl al-Bayt and the Wives of the Prophet ﷺ

→ Love and respect the family of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ without neglect or exaggeration.

→ The wives of the Prophet ﷺ are the Mothers of the Believers.

→ Love and respect Khadijah, Aishah and all the wives رضي الله عنهن.

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Karamat of the Awliya

→ Karamat are extraordinary events Allah may give to righteous believers.

→ They are true but do not make someone a Prophet.

→ They do not give anyone a share of Allah's worship.

→ True Awliya are known by Iman, Taqwa and following the Quran and Sunnah.

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Path of Ahlus-Sunnah wal-Jamaah

→ Follow the Quran, Sunnah and the way of the first Muslims, especially the Muhajirun and Ansar.

→ Do not place personal desires above revelation.

→ The most truthful speech is Allah's Speech and the best guidance is the guidance of Muhammad ﷺ.

→ Avoid invented religious matters and seek unity upon the truth.

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Commanding Good and Good Character

→ Command good and forbid wrong with knowledge and the correct Islamic method.

→ Establish Jumuah, Eid, congregational prayer and Hajj.

→ Give sincere advice and seek good for the Muslim community.

→ Believers support each other like a building and care for each other like one body.

→ Complete Iman is connected to good manners.

→ Practice patience, thankfulness, forgiveness, family ties and kindness to parents, relatives, neighbours, orphans, the poor and travellers.

→ Avoid pride, arrogance, oppression and looking down on people.

Evidence: Hadith in Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim about the building and one body; hadith in at-Tirmidhi about complete Iman and good manners.

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Final Diagram

→ Quran + Authentic Sunnah + Understanding of the Salaf

→ → Correct Tawheed

→ → Correct belief in Allah's Names and Attributes

→ → Correct belief in the Quran, Hereafter, Qadar and Iman

→ → Love and respect for the Companions and Ahl al-Bayt

→ → Following the Sunnah, good manners and unity upon truth

→ → Ahlus-Sunnah wal-Jamaah.

Evidence: The study notes close with narrations describing the saved and victorious group as those who remain upon the truth and the way of the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions.