

By Shaykh Muhammad ibn Abdul Wahhab ibn Sulayman al-Tamimi رحمه الله . A matn is a short Islamic text that teaches the main points of a subject in an organized way. We study these ten serious matters to protect our Islam and Tawheed and stay far away from what goes against Allah's religion.

Foundation Before the Ten Nullifiers

Tawheed Tawheed means singling out Allah alone. Allah alone is our Lord, Allah alone deserves all worship and we believe correctly in His Names and Attributes.	Three Categories 1. Lordship: Allah alone creates, provides and controls. 2. Worship: every act of worship is for Allah alone. 3. Names and Attributes: believe what is established in the Quran and Sunnah.	Why Tawheed Matters Allah created jinn and mankind to worship Him alone. Tawheed is a cause of Jannah, greater reward, forgiveness, guidance, security, peace in the heart and receiving the Prophet's ﷺ intercession by Allah's permission.	Two Conditions of Worship 1. Sincerity: worship Allah alone. Opposite: Shirk. 2. Following Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Opposite: invented worship. Proof: Sahih Muslim 1718.
Major Shirk Directing worship to other than Allah. It takes a person outside Islam. It destroys deeds and if a person dies upon it without repentance it prevents Paradise. Examples: Dua to the dead for what only Allah can do or sacrifice as worship for other than Allah.	Minor Shirk A serious sin that does not take a person outside Islam but weakens Tawheed and can lead to Major Shirk. Examples: showing off in worship, swearing by other than Allah and seeking blessing in a way Islam does not allow.	Hidden Shirk Shirk may be hidden in the heart such as secretly wanting praise while worshipping. Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام asked Allah to keep him and his children away from idols. Surah Ibrahim 14:35.	Protection From Shirk The Prophet ﷺ taught: "O Allah, I seek refuge in You from associating partners with You knowingly and I seek Your forgiveness for what I do not know." Musnad Ahmad.

Bismillah and What a Nullifier Means

Bismillah Four reasons: following the Quran, following Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, following the scholars and seeking Allah's blessing. Allah = the One who alone deserves worship. Ar-Rahman = His vast mercy reaches creation. Ar-Raheem = His special mercy reaches the believers.	Naaqid and Nawaqid Naaqid means one nullifier. Nawaqid means nullifiers. The word can mean to ruin, destroy or untie something. Here it means a serious matter that can take a person out of Islam.	Four Ways A person can leave Islam through: 1. speech, At-Tawbah 9:74 2. actions, such as sacrifice as worship for other than Allah 3. belief, Al-Munafiqun 63:1 4. serious settled doubts about basic beliefs.	Important Rule These are general rules. Asking a question to learn is not the same as rejecting Islam. Do not quickly rule that a particular Muslim has left Islam. Qualified scholars examine the proof, conditions and circumstances.
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Nullifiers 1 to 5

1. Shirk in Worship Giving something that belongs only to Allah to someone or something else. An-Nisa 4:116; Al-Maidah 5:72; Luqman 31:13. Sacrifice as worship for Jinn, someone in a grave or anyone besides Allah is Shirk. Slaughtering normal food for a guest in Allah's Name is different.	2. Putting Someone Between You and Allah Calling upon a created being, asking them for intercession or depending on them for something belonging only to Allah. A Muslim may ask another Muslim to make Dua if the person is alive, present or reachable and able. It is better to call upon Allah directly. Ghafir 40:60.	3. Believing Shirk Is Correct A Muslim cannot believe Tawheed and Shirk are both correct. Tawheed includes believing in Allah and rejecting Taghoot. Laa Ilaaha rejects worship of everything besides Allah. Illa Allah confirms worship for Allah alone. Rulings on particular people require qualified scholars.	4. Other Guidance Better Believing another guidance or system is better than or equal to the guidance and law Allah revealed is different from sinning while still believing Allah's law is correct. Istihlal means believing something Allah made Haram is actually Halal.	5. Hating What the Prophet ﷺ Brought Hating something Prophet Muhammad ﷺ brought is extremely serious even if the person still does it outwardly. Proof: Surah Muhammad 47:9.
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Nullifiers 6 to 10

6. Mocking the Religion Making fun of Allah, His verses, His Messenger ﷺ or the rewards and punishments of Islam is extremely serious. At-Tawbah 9:65-66. At Tabook some mocked the Prophet ﷺ and believers then said they were only joking. Allah rejected their excuse.	7. Magic, Sorcery and Witchcraft Includes Sarf, magic used to cause hatred and Atf, magic used to cause unnatural love or attachment. The lesson warns against practising it or being pleased with it. Al-Baqarah 2:102. The people were warned that it was a test and not to disbelieve.	8. Helping the Mushrikeen Against Believers The lesson warns against helping the Mushrikeen plot against Muslims and choosing their side against believers. Al-Maidah 5:51. Helping a non-Muslim against another non-Muslim does not fall under this particular nullifier.	9. Believing Someone Does Not Need the Shariah No one reaches a spiritual level where Salah, fasting, Zakah or Allah's commands no longer apply. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was sent to all humanity and his Shariah continues until the end of the world.	10. Completely Turning Away Completely turning away from Islam by neither learning it nor following it. Surah As-Sajdah 32:22. A Muslim should learn Islam and try to follow what they learn.
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Important Explanations

Nullifier 3 and Takfeer Takfeer means ruling that a particular person is no longer Muslim. It is a serious ruling. The Islamic proof must be clear, the matter must actually apply to the person and qualified scholars must examine whether anything prevents the ruling.	Nullifier 4: Do Not Confuse the Two Doing something wrong because of desire or weakness while believing Allah's ruling is true is not the same as believing another ruling is better than or equal to Allah's ruling.	Nullifier 6: Why "After Faith"? Scholars gave explanations. Some said certain people had hypocrisy in their actions before it became complete. Others said Allah addressed them according to the faith that appeared to the Muslims before their true condition became known.	Nullifier 7: Babil The two angels were sent to Babil as a test. They warned people before teaching them: "We are only a test, so do not disbelieve." The people who chose forbidden magic fell into a very serious matter.	Nullifier 9: Al-Khidr and Musa عليه السلام The Shariah of Prophet Musa عليه السلام was for Banu Israil and was not universal for every human. Al-Khidr was not from those people. The Shariah of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is for all humanity and later generations.
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Joking, Fear and Being Forced

Joking or Serious There is no difference in the seriousness of these nullifiers between someone who does them seriously and someone who says they were only joking.	Fear Without Real Danger Fear that exists only in a person's mind when there is no real immediate danger does not make Shirk acceptable.	Truly Forced If a person is truly forced under real danger while the heart remains firm upon Islam, the person is excused.	What Students Must Do Learn each Nullifier, learn its proof, understand its danger, protect your own Islam and Tawheed and do not rush to judge particular people.
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Principles Before Ruling on a Particular Person

1. Clear Proof It must be established from the Quran and Sunnah that the statement or action really is disbelief.	2. Confirm What Happened It must be confirmed that the person actually said the words or did the action.	3. Explain the Proof The proper Islamic proof must reach the person and be properly explained.	4. Check What May Prevent the Ruling Qualified scholars check matters such as being forced, extreme anger or not properly understanding the proof.
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The Prophet ﷺ warned against wrongly calling a Muslim a disbeliever. Sahih Al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim. A person who entered Islam with certainty is not removed from Islam except with certainty. Final lesson: study the Nullifiers to protect yourself from Shirk and Kufr and ask Allah to keep you firm upon Tawheed.