



By Muhammad ibn Abdul-Wahhab ibn Sulayman al-Tamimi
(1115–1206 A.H.) May Allah have mercy on him.

These lessons teach us about ten very serious matters that can take a person out of Islam. We learn how to protect our Tawheed, worship Allah alone, respect the teachings of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and stay away from what Allah has forbidden. These lessons help us follow the Qur'an and Sunnah as understood by the Salaf (Pious Predecessors) of this Ummah.

In the Name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Especially Merciful

These are ten of the greatest nullifiers of Islam. A nullifier is a belief, statement or action that can take a person out of Islam. We study them to protect our own faith and to stay away from these serious matters.

First: Shirk in the Worship of Allah

Shirk means giving any act of worship to someone or something besides Allah. Muslims must worship Allah alone. Salah, Dua and acts of worship such as sacrifice must be for Allah alone. One example is offering an animal as a sacrifice to the jinn or to a grave as an act of worship. This is not the same as preparing food to eat. Worship must never be offered to anyone besides Allah. Proof from the Qur'an: Allah warns that He does not forgive Shirk for someone who dies upon it without repenting, while He may forgive sins less than Shirk for whom He wills. (Surah An-Nisa 4:48) Allah also warns that the person who worships others along with Him has made Paradise forbidden for himself. (Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:72)

Second: Making Others Between Ourselves and Allah

We must make Dua to Allah alone. It is a nullifier of Islam to place someone between ourselves and Allah as an object of worship, call upon that person, ask that person for intercession or depend on that person for what only Allah can give. Intercession means asking for help or mercy on behalf of someone. We ask Allah for what belongs to Him alone. Asking a living person for ordinary help they can give, such as help carrying something, is not the worship described here. The scholars agree that making others into objects of worship in this way is disbelief.

Third: Approving Shirk or Believing It Is True

We must believe that worshipping others besides Allah is wrong. Islam teaches that people who worship others alongside Allah and reject Tawheed are not following the belief of Islam. A person must not claim that this false worship is correct, doubt the clear Islamic ruling about it or say that the religion of those who commit Shirk is true. Scholars agree that rejecting this clear teaching is disbelief. These lessons are for learning our religion, not for children to judge the faith of particular people.



Fourth: Believing Other Guidance Is Better Than the Prophet's ﷺ Guidance

Allah sent Prophet Muhammad ﷺ with the best guidance. We must not believe that another way of religious guidance is better or more complete than his teachings. It is also a nullifier to believe that the judgement and rules of false gods are better than the judgement brought by the Prophet ﷺ. We should love his Sunnah and follow what Allah has revealed.

Fifth: Hating What the Prophet ﷺ Brought

We must respect and love what Allah revealed to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. A person who hates something from the religion because it is part of what the Messenger ﷺ brought has committed a nullifier, even if that person still performs the action. Sometimes a duty may feel difficult. Finding something difficult is not the same as hating Allah's guidance. We should ask Allah to help us obey Him. Proof from the Qur'an: Allah warns about people who hated what He sent down and says that their deeds were made worthless. (Surah Muhammad 47:9)

Sixth: Making Fun of Allah's Religion

We must never make fun of Allah, His religion, His verses or His Messenger ﷺ. The warning also includes making fun of the rewards Allah promises or the punishments He warns about. Calling something a joke does not make it acceptable to laugh at or insult the religion. We should speak respectfully about the Qur'an, the Sunnah, Paradise and the Hereafter. Proof from the Qur'an: Allah warned people who mocked Him, His verses and His Messenger that their excuse of joking did not excuse what they had said. (Surah At-Tawbah 9:65-66)

Seventh: Sorcery (Sihr)

Sihr means magic or sorcery. Islam forbids magic. It includes magic that a person uses to make two people dislike each other or to make someone love another person by magic. Doing such magic or being pleased that it is done is a serious nullifier. We must not practice magic or ask anyone to practice it for us. We seek help and protection from Allah alone. Proof from the Qur'an: Allah tells us that the two angels warned people that they were a test and told them not to fall into disbelief. (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:102)

Eighth: Supporting the Polytheists Against the Muslims

This nullifier warns against supporting people who worship others besides Allah and helping them against the Muslims. Helping them against Muslims in this way is a very serious matter.

This does not give anyone permission to mistreat people. We should understand these serious matters through knowledge and proper teaching, not use them as a reason to be unkind to others.

Proof from the Qur'an: Allah gives a warning about taking such people as allies and protectors. (Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:51)



Ninth: Believing Some People Do Not Have to Follow the Prophet ﷺ

The guidance of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is for the Muslim Ummah. No Muslim is allowed to believe that some people are free from following his religion and rules. Al-Khidr and Prophet Musa (peace be upon him) lived before Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Their situation does not give anyone permission to leave the teachings of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. We must learn and follow the guidance he brought.

Tenth: Turning Away From Allah's Religion

It is a serious matter to turn away from Islam by refusing to learn it and refusing to follow it. We should not reject Allah's guidance or act as though His commands do not matter. Learning can take time, and a person may find some duties difficult. This is different from completely turning away from the religion. We must keep learning and trying to obey Allah. Proof from the Qur'an: Allah warns about the person who is reminded of His verses and then turns away from them. (Surah As-Sajdah 32:22)

Important Warning About All Ten Nullifiers

These nullifiers are serious whether someone does them while joking, while being serious or because of ordinary fear. There is an exception for someone who is truly forced to do or say something against their will. Being afraid and being forced are not the same thing. All ten matters are among the greatest dangers to a Muslim's faith. We must be careful, protect our Tawheed and ask Allah to keep us away from what brings His anger and punishment.

Closing Dua

We ask Allah to protect us from the things that bring His anger and painful punishment. May Allah send peace and blessings upon Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, his family and his Companions. All praise belongs to Allah.