

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

THE SEEKER'S GUIDE TO VERIFYING THE DOCTRINES OF DIVINE UNITY

Irshād al-Murīd
li-Taḥqīq ʿAqā'id at-Tawḥīd

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This book was published by the
grace of Allah ﷻ and through the efforts of
someone who loves Allah ﷻ
and His Messenger ﷺ.

We ask Allah ﷻ to reward him with goodness.
And we request everyone who reads this book
and benefits from it to pray for him
and his family. *Āmīn.*



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A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE SCIENCE OF *KALĀM*



Overview

The science of *kalām*—or the philosophy (or study) of the foundations of Islam—is the chief of the Islamic sciences. It is the formal investigation into questions of who we are, where we are from and where we are going; alternatively, one can understand it as an answer to the question of why one ought to be a Muslim. It also provides a framework by which Muslims can discuss their differences in a rational, evidence-based manner. Likewise, it allows them to discuss fruitfully with other non-Islamic philosophies and religions. But its function is not limited to answering these questions; just like other philosophies, *kalām* also involves an investigation into epistemology, metaphysics, language, ethics, physics, psychology and several other subjects.

In doing so, it aids in the investigation of other sciences such as physics or biology, or syntax and semantics, especially in questions which overlap between these sciences. It is in these areas that the *mutakallimūn* can provide support for practitioners of these sciences in the discovery of their own foundations and their relationship to the ultimate foundations of physical and social reality.

Kalām is often attacked for being too difficult or ineffective, while others often avoid discussing its contents by simply discussing its history. The following essay will offer an overview of the science, its