

## Kalima Shahada

Islam is based on 5 pillars, the first being Kalima Shahada which is the testimony of Muslim Faith, Salah, Zakat, fasting in the month of Ramadhan and Hajj. This essay will focus on the first pillar, the Kalima Shahada.

The Kalima Shahada is the declaration of Faith and the true essence of Islam. It is recited as the following: La ilaha Illallah Muhammad ur-Rasulullah. This means: None is to be worshipped but Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah. We have faith in the Oneness of the Creator, Allah (S.W.T), and we believe that Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) is the last Prophet and Messenger of Allah (S.W.T). This also means that only Allah (S.W.T) should be worshipped, and anything that others worship besides Him should be avoided. It has to be recited by the tongue and believed in the heart. The first requirement of being a Muslim is to believe in it.

The Kalima Shahada is recited to us from the moment we are born. It is in the adhan which is recited in the right ear of a newborn baby, and it is in the Iqama which is recited in the left ear. It is part of our daily Salah and recited in Attahiyyat. It is recited in the Adhan and Iqama 5 times a day. We should constantly do the dhikr of the Kalima Shahada.

It is reported by al-Bukhari and Muslim that Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) said, "There is no servant who says, 'None has the right to be worshipped except Allah', and then dies, except that he will enter Paradise." It is recited by those who carry the coffin of a Muslim to the grave. If someone says this testimony truthfully with a true clean heart, he will enter Paradise. It weighs more in the scale of good deeds than all other good deeds put together. We can truthfully follow the testimony if we obey Allah (S.W.T) alone, love, fear, and rely on Him. If someone believes in anyone else apart from Allah (S.W.T) as god, then that is called shirk.

The Kalima Shahada is written on Muslim flags in beautiful calligraphy. It is engraved on walls of masjid. It is painted, framed and put on walls. It is recited in qasidas, religious poetry.

Some of the virtues of Kalima Shahada include the following. First, it is the statement that there is only one God, and Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) is His Messenger. It helps you enter Paradise and is the safety from hell fire. It leads to forgiveness if one says it with a truthful heart. It is a good deed to recite it with truthfulness. It removes your sins. It raises your Faith in your heart. Nothing can outweigh it. We recite it in du'a for ourselves as well as for Muslims who have passed away. It allows one's duas to be answered. The Prophet (S.A.W) said that it is the best form of Dhikr. If we solely believe in Allah (S.W.T) as God and that Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) is His Messenger, then Allah (S.W.T) opens our way in this world, and our doors open for entry to Paradise. We love the Kalima Shahada. May we die reciting the Kalima Shahada. Amin.

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Reference: My Book About Islam, written by students of Madrasa al-Hidaya, Chapter 11,

Kalima Shahada, madrahidaya.net

