AQIDAH

THE CREED OF DELIVERANCE

'Aqidat Al-Najaat

By Muḥammad ibn Ja'far al-Kattānī al-Ḥasanī al-Fāsī

Translated and Taught by Dr. Umar Faruq Abd-Allah
Muhammad ibn Ja’far al-Kattānī al-Hasanī al-Fāṣī (ca. 1275/1857 – 1345/1927) was a historian, hadith specialist, and prolific author. He was born in Fez and lived and taught there for most of his life. In 1332/1913, he moved with his family to Medina, where he stayed for the next six years. It was during this time that he wrote this poem, “The Creed of Deliverance,” at the request of his Shaykh Muhammad Ahmad al-Dandarāwī. In 1339/1920, he moved to Damascus and remained there until 1345/1927, when he returned to Morocco. He died in Fez in that same year shortly after his return. He authored over sixty books on hadith, sira, and other Islamic subjects.
The Creed of Deliverance

1. Muhammad said— the son of Ja'far
   Widely known by a name from selling linen,

2. Out of praise for [God], who gave us existence from non-existence
   And gave us special distinction through [our Prophet], the best of those
   having preeminence.

3. May our Lord extol him and grant him special grace
   And to those who follow him in belief and are affiliated to him.
4. Servant [of God], weak and wrongful,
   Hoping to set right a belief that is binding.

5. The first of what is obligatory for [God’s] servants is
   Knowledge of the Creator and Messengers [God] has chosen.

6. Thus, it is necessary that our Lord have (1) existence,
   (2) Preexistence, then (3) everlastingness extended [to infinity].

7. (4) Dissimilarity from His creation; then (5) self-sufficiency
   And (6) absolute oneness: [There is] no toil [in what God does].
8. (7) Power, (8) will, furthermore (9) life
And (10) knowledge. Proof [of these attributes]
is the creation of existent things.

9. (11) [God's] hearing, (12) sight, and (13) [uncreated] speech
Their proof, the learned have passed down [to us].

10. It is conceivable for [God] to do whatever is
Possible or leave it undone. Know [this] well.

11. For [God] glorified be He— is solitary
In His dominion. He does whatever He wills.
12. The contraries of these [attributes] are impossible. Again, perfection
Belongs to God. Any deficiency for [God]
has become impossible [in your mind].

13. Necessary for [God’s] Messengers are (1) trustworthiness
(2) Truthfulness, and (3) full communication [of the Prophetic message].
[In them,] there is no treachery.

14. Likewise, the remaining [attributes], their contraries are impossible.
For [the Prophets] have [all been given] perfection from our lord.

15. It is possible as regards [the Messengers]
to be affected by the likes of sickness
or any [other] characteristic causing no deficiency when it occurs.
16. All of this [teaching] is brought together in a single phrase,  
[la ilaha illa-Llah. Muhammadun Rasîlu-Llah]   
May the Lord make it for each [of us] the final word [we say in our lives].

17. God extol Muhammad ﷺ and the believers who follow him,  
His Companions and whoever comes to be of his party.

18. I named [this poem] “The Creed of Deliverance”  
Because it delivers [us] from [every] distress.

19. I wrote it down for children in general  
And for women and men with limited time.