The *shahada* guarantees that the status of Muhammad (pbuh) as Allah's Messenger will never be changed in the way that the status of Jesus (pbuh) was altered to "begotten Son" *after* he (pbuh) was raised to The Lord.

Muhammad (pbuh) was neither divine nor the founder of Islam. He (pbuh) was a Messenger who called to the worship of Allah, The One and Only Lord.

The *shahada* also affirms belief in all the earlier Messengers from Adam to Jesus (peace be upon them). They preached the same Islamic Message: *"Allah Alone we worship. Allah Alone we seek help."*

This message was perfected during the time of Muhammad (pbuh). *"This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion."* [5:3]

Allah's earlier Messengers were guides to particular communities. His final Messenger, **Muhammad** (pbuh), was sent as **"a Mercy" to all of Creation.** [21:107].

Thus, **'The Way of Muhammad'** (pbuh) is **'The Way' for every one** to seek nearness to Allah. [33:21]

A person embracing Islam reverts to the sinless state of his birth *(fitra)* and retains the good deeds of his pre-*shahada* life.

Liberate yourself from falsehood.
Declare the *shahada*.
Take The Straight Path of Islam
in the return journey to your Creator.

By: Dr Y Mansoor Marican, Ph. D

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ISLAM IS TRUTH

Embracing ISLAM

There is nothing worthy of worship except **Allah** and **Muhammad** is His final Messenger.

With The Name of Allah
The Intensely Merciful, The Eternally Merciful

Embracing Islam: the *Shahada*

The ***shahada*** or the declaration of faith is the foundation of Islam.

"I bear witness that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah. And I bear witness that Muhammad is the (final) Messenger of Allah."

He/she declares it in Arabic with **sincerity, certainty, knowledge, truthfulness, love, submission,** and accepts it as a **total** and **lifelong commitment.**

Witnesses are not required as the *declaration* is a matter solely between the individual and His Creator.

The signature of witnesses validates the *registration* of the *shahada* with the Islamic authority. A Certificate of Conversion is issued.

This Certificate is required for marriage, *zakat*, Hajj visa, and burial.

The *shahada* begins with the negation (*"nothing worthy of worship"*) and ends with the affirmation ("except Allah").

Belief in Islam begins with rejecting everything that is *shirk* or the act of associating partners with Allah.

Shirk includes the worship of saints and false gods such as idols and deities.

Cover: Masjid Ubudiah, Kuala Kangsar, Malaysia
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It also requires a rejection of attributing divine qualities to created things such as trees, rivers, mountains, animals, fire, stars, planets, the sun, numbers, human beings, talismans and pieces of string!

Attributing divine qualities to humans or objects is the worst form of ignorance.

The *shahada* becomes the dividing line between knowledge and ignorance, truth and falsehood, and belief and disbelief.

Even those who worship multiple deities accept that there is one supreme Lord Who ensures order in the Universe!

But they persist with their ignorance and continue to worship the minor deities as the way to approach the Great God!

These deities have no power to create even "a fly." [The Qur'an 22:73]

The *shahada* redirects humanity from the false worship of created things to the true worship of Allah, The Lord of all created things.

The declaration that *"Muhammad is the (final) Messenger of Allah"* complements and makes the *shahada* complete.

Belief in Muhammad (peace be upon him) as the final Messenger is to affirm belief in **The Qur'an as the final revelation.** [5:3] The Qur'an confirms the truths in the earlier revelations and corrects the deviations.

There will be no more Messengers or other Books of Allah.

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