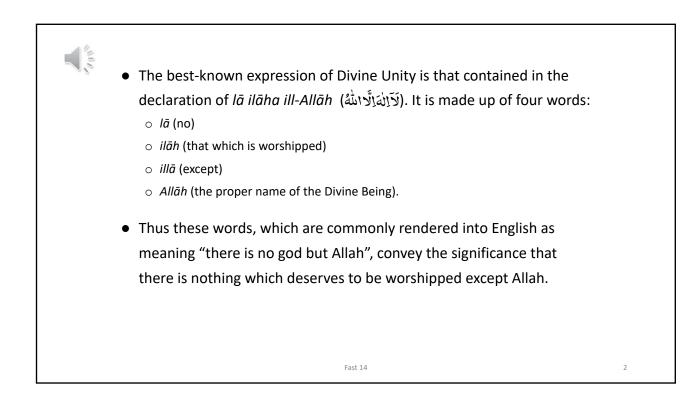


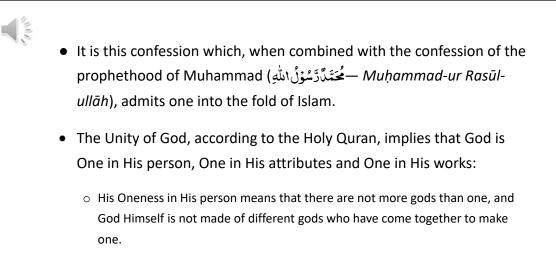
Fast 14: **The oneness of God (***Tauḥid, توحيد***)**

 All the basic principles of Islam are fully dealt with in the Holy Quran, and so is the doctrine of faith in God, of which the corner-stone is belief in the Unity of God (*Tauḥīd*, توحيد).

Fast 14

1

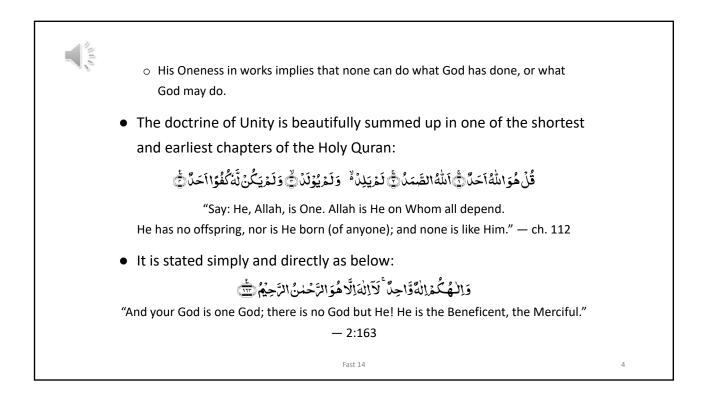




 His Oneness in attributes implies that no other being possesses one or more of the Divine attributes to the perfect extent.

Fast 14

3





- *Shirk:* The opposite of Unity is *shirk,* implying partnership. In the Holy Quran, *shirk* is used to signify the associating of gods with God, whether such association is with respect to the person of God or His attributes or His works, or with respect to the obedience which is due to God alone.
- *Shirk* is said to be the gravest of all sins:

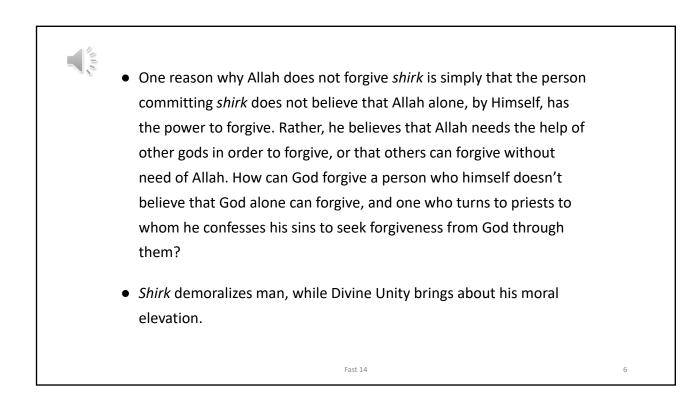
إِنَّ الشِّرْكَ لَظُلُمٌ عَظِيمٌ ٢

"Surely *shirk* is a grievous wrong." — 31:13

ٳڹۜٙ١ٮڵؖؗ؋ؘڵٳؾۼ۬ڣۯٲڹ۫ؾٞ۠ۺؙڒٙۘ؋ۛؠ؋ۅؘؾۼ۬ڣۯؙڡٮٵۮؙۅ۫ڹؘڂ۬ڵؚڣٙڵؚڡؘڹ۫ؾۜۺٙٳٞٷ۠

"Allah does not forgive that a partner should be set up with Him, and He forgives all besides that to whom He pleases." — 4:48

Fast 14





 According to the Holy Quran, man is God's *khalifa*, i.e. God's representative or deputy on earth (so to speak), and this shows that he is gifted with the power of controlling the rest of the creation in earth and heaven:

 $\circ~$ "And He has made subservient to you whatsoever is in the heavens and whatsoever is in the earth, all from Himself. Surely there are signs in this for a people who reflect." — 45:12–13

If, then, man has been created to rule the universe and is gifted with the power to subdue everything and to turn it to his use, does he not degrade himself by taking other things for gods, by bowing before the very things which he has been created to conquer and rule?

Fast 14

