

AQIDAH

THE CREED OF
DELIVERANCE

'Aqidat Al-Najaat

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

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Muhammad ibn Ja'far al-Kattānī al-Hasanī al-Fāsī (ca. 1275/1857 – 1345/1927) was a historian, *hadīth* 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 *hadīth*, *sīra*, and other Islamic subjects.



The Creed of Deliverance

1. قَالَ مُحَمَّدٌ هُوَ ابْنُ جَعْفَرَ لَقَبُ كِتَّانٍ عَلَيْهِ قَدْ جَرَى
2. حَمْدًا لِمَنْ أَوْجَدَنَا مِنَ الْعَدَمِ وَحَصَّنَا بِخَيْرٍ مَنْ لَهُ الْقَدَمُ
3. صَلَّى عَلَيْهِ رَبُّنَا وَسَلَّمَا وَآلِهِ وَكُلِّ مَنْ لَهُ انْتَمَى

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 يَا أَيُّهَا الْعَبْدُ الضَّعِيفُ الْمَذْنِبُ الْمُرْتَجِي تَصْحِيحَ عَقْدٍ يَجِبُ
- .5 أَوَّلُ مَا عَلَى الْعِبَادِ قَدْ وَجِبَ مَعْرِفَةُ الْبَارِي وَرُسُلِ اتَّتَّخَبَ
- .6 فَوَاجِبٌ لِرَبِّنَا الْوُجُودُ قَدَمُهُ ثُمَّ الْبَقَا الْمَمْدُودُ
- .7 وَخُلْفَهُ لِخَلْقِهِ ثُمَّ الْغِنَى وَوَحْدَهُ مُطْلَقَةً وَلَا عَنَا

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. وَقُدْرَةَ إِرَادَةِ ثُمَّ الْحَيَاتِ وَالْعِلْمُ وَالذَّلِيلُ خَلَقَ الْكَائِنَاتِ
9. وَسَمْعُهُ وَالْبَصَرَ الْكَلَامُ دَلِيلَهَا نَقَلَهُ الْأَعْلَامُ
10. وَجَائِزٌ عَلَيْهِ فِعْلٌ مَا يُمَكِّنُ أَوْ تَرَكَهُ فَلَتَعْلَمَا
11. لِأَنَّهُ سُبْحَانَهُ فَرِيدٌ فِي مُلْكِهِ يَفْعَلُ مَا يُرِيدُ

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 وَضِدُّهَا مُمْتَنِعٌ ثُمَّ الْكَمَالُ
لِلَّهِ وَالنَّقْصُ غَدَا لَهُ مُحَالٌ
- .13 وَوَاجِبٌ لِرُسُلِهِ الْأَمَانَةُ
وَالصِّدْقُ وَالتَّبْلِغُ لَا خِيَانَةَ
- .14 كَذَلِكَ بَاقِي ضِدُّهَا مُحَالٌ
إِذْ لَهُمْ مِنْ رَبِّنَا الْكَمَالُ
- .15 وَجَائِزٌ عَلَيْهِمْ نَحْوُ الْمَرَضِ
مِنْ عَرَضٍ لَا نَقْصَ فِيهِ إِذْ عَرَضُ

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. وَكُلِّ ذَا مُسْتَجْمَعٍ فِي كَلِمَةٍ جَعَلَهَا الرَّبُّ لِكُلِّ خَاتِمَةٍ
17. صَلَّى عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَمَنْ غَدَا مِنْ حِزْبِهِ
18. سَمَيْتُهَا عَقِيدَةَ النَّجَاءِ لِكُونِهَا تُنْجِي مِنَ الْبَلَاءِ
19. وَضَعْتُهَا لِجُمْلَةِ الْأَطْفَالِ وَقَاصِرِي النِّسَاءِ وَالرِّجَالِ

16. All of this [teaching] is brought together in a single phrase,
[lā ilāha illā-Llāh. Muhammadun Rasūlu-Llāh]
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.
