
QUESTION: Muslims believe that stating the testimony of faith has certain conditions, such as saying it with sincerity. What are these conditions?

ANSWER: It is clearly not enough to say the testimony of faith – that there is none truly of worship except Allah alone, and that Muhammad (peace and blessings upon him) is the final Messenger - without believing it or understanding what you are saying. ¹

However Muslim scholars of the past have mentioned that other conditions must be fulfilled in order for the testimony to be valid, rather than just mere words which are just stated on the tongue.

These conditions include the following:

The person should have knowledge of what they are saying: that the testimony of faith affirms the right of Allah to be worshipped and negates that anyone or anything else should be worshipped.

The person should be certain that they really mean what they are saying and that they don't harbour doubts and suspicions afterwards.

The person should be sincere and true in what they are saying, and not just stating it on their tongue whilst rejecting it in their heart.

The person should love what he is saying and have love for Allah and all his Prophets, as well as loving the people who love them.

The person should have submission to Allah and accept happily what Islam decrees and asks of a person.

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NEXT TIME: Are there things that may cancel out the testimony of faith that a person makes?

¹ Refer to '*aqeedah ut tawheed* p53 of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan for more information