

The Shahadah — what you are saying

Two short sentences make a person a Muslim. This is what each half of them actually commits you to.



★ The words

فَاعْلَمُ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

“So know that there is no deity except Allah.” It is knowledge first — and knowledge you then live by, not a password.

Qur'an 47:19

★ Two testimonies, one door

Lā ilāha illā Allāh, Muḥammadun rasūlu-llāh ﷺ. Islam is built on this, then prayer, zakat, fasting and hajj.

Sahih al-Bukhari 8 · Sahih Muslim, Kitab al-Iman

★ Lā ilāha — the denial

No god at all: not wealth, not power, not the self. Rejecting every false object of worship comes before affirming anything.

- Whoever rejects false gods and believes has grasped the firm handhold

Qur'an 2:256

★ illā Allāh — the affirmation

وَاللَّهُمَّ إِلَهٌ وَحِدٌ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ

“And your god is one God. There is no deity except Him, the Entirely Merciful, the Especially Merciful.”

Qur'an 2:163

★ Whose claim it is first

Allah bears witness to it, and so do the angels and those given knowledge. You are agreeing with a testimony already given.

Qur'an 3:18

★ ...and Muhammad is His Messenger

The second half settles how Allah is worshipped: by what the Prophet ﷺ brought, not by what we happen to prefer.

- “Whatever the Messenger has given you — take it”

Qur'an 59:7

★ Obedience is the proof

“If you should love Allah, then follow me.” Love is claimed by everyone; following is what shows it.

Qur'an 3:31 · 4:80

★ Said with meaning

Scholars list what the words require: knowledge, certainty, sincerity, acceptance and action — not pronunciation alone.

Qur'an 47:19 · 2:256

★ The last words

The Prophet ﷺ taught that whoever's final words are lā ilāha illā Allāh enters Paradise. Which is why we keep them on the tongue now.

Sunan Abi Dawud, Kitab al-Jana'iz · hasan