Mukhtasar al-Akhdari
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Summary on ‘Ibadat
according to
The School of Imam Malik

by
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In the name of Allah, All-Merciful,
Most Merciful

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَٰنِ الرَّحِيمِ

تِلْكَ حُدُودُ اللَّهِ فَلَ تَعْتَدُوهَا

These are Allah’s limits,
so do not overstep them.
(Surat al-Baqara 2:229)
Praise belongs to Allah, the Lord of all the Worlds, and blessings and peace be upon our master Muhammad, the Seal of the Prophets and the Imam of the Messengers

I. THE PRIMARY OBLIGATIONS OF A MUSLIM

1. To have sound faith

2. To know how to properly carry out individual obligations, such as the judgments regarding the prayer, purification and fasting

3. To observe the limits (hudud) imposed by Allah, and hold to His commands and prohibitions and turn in repentance to Allah All-Glorious before He becomes angry.

PRECONDITIONS FOR REPENTANCE

1. Regret for what you did
2. The intention not to revert to the wrong action for the rest of your life

3. To stop the act of disobedience immediately if one is actually doing it. It is not lawful to put off repentance or say, “I will repent when Allah guides me.” That is a sign of misery, abandonment by Allah and lack of insight.

4. One must guard the tongue against obscene language and ugly words, and swearing by divorce (e.g. “If I do not do a thing, I will divorce my wife”).

5. One must avoid putting down another Muslim, treating him with contempt, cursing him, or frightening him without a legitimate reason.

6. One must guard one’s eyes against looking at what is unlawful. It is not lawful to look at a Muslim with a glance which hurts him unless he is impious in which case you should shun him.

7. One must preserve all one’s limbs, as much as one can, from blameworthy actions.
8. A Muslim must love for Allah and hate for Him, and be pleased for Him and angry for Him, and he must command the right and forbid the wrong.

Unlawful Matters

1. It is unlawful to lie, to slander, carry tales, be arrogant, be proud, show off for the sake of appearance and reputation, to envy, to hate, to see oneself as better than others, to find fault, to backbite, to mock, or to ridicule.

2. It is unlawful to commit fornication or to look with lust at a woman to whom you are not married or take pleasure in her words; or to consume the property of people without their consent; or to receive money in exchange for intercession or because of a debt; or to delay the prayer until its time has passed.

3. It is unlawful to keep the company of a deviant person (fāsiq) or to sit with him without necessity.
I. The Primary Obligations of a Muslim

4. You should not seek to please creatures at the expense of incurring the anger of the Creator. Allah Almighty says: “It would be more fitting for them to please Allah and His Messenger if they are believers.”(9:62) The Prophet ﷺ said, “There is no obedience owed to a creature when it involves disobedience of the Creator.”

5. It is not lawful to do an action until you know what Allah’s judgment about it is. You should ask the people of knowledge and imitate those who follow the Sunna of Muhammad ﷺ, those who direct people to how to obey Allah and warn people against following Shaytan.

6. A Muslim should not be content to allow himself to do what the spiritually bankrupt are content to do – those who waste their lives obeying other than Allah Almighty. What regret they will suffer! How long they will weep on the Day of Resurrection!

We ask Allah Almighty to give us success in following the Sunna of our Prophet, intercessor and master, Muhammad ﷺ.