

KITAABUL IMAAN **DEFINITION OF IMAAN**

In terms of the *Shari'ah* the two words, *Imaan* and *Islam* , are inextricably interwoven. The *Shar'i* meaning of the one is incomplete without the meaning of the other. The two terms are complementary. The one is a necessary corollary of the other. The existence of the one is dependent on the existence of the other. Negation of the one implies the automatic negation of the other. A proper understanding of *Imaan* is, therefore, possible only by a study of the *Shar'i* definition of both words and their interrelationship to one another.

Literal Meanings

Imaan literally means:

To verify, to accept, to attest with the heart.

The acceptance by the heart with conviction is termed *Imaan* in the literal sense. Hence, *Imaan* is a state or an internal (*Baatin*) condition.

Islaam literally means:

“To submit oneself to another; to make oneself lowly in the presence of another .”

In the literal sense. Therefore, Islam is an external (zaahiri) state in which a display or demonstration of the internal (baatini) condition is made.

These literal meanings of the two words have their share in the *Shar'i* definition of *Imaan* and *Is laam*

. Basing the technical (i.e. the *Shar'i*

) meanings on the literal meanings. Imaam Abu Muhammad Mas'ud Baghawi Rahmatullah Alay says:

“Nabi (Sallallahu Alayhi wasallam) defined Islaam as the name for external acts and Imaan as the name of the internal beliefs.”



Kitaabul
IMAAN

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