LEVELS OF MEANING OF ‘LA ILAHA ILLA LLAH’

Culled From;
*Speech to Mauritania on the Celebration of its Independence (November 28, 1960).*

{Letter #12: From The Discourses of Shaykh Al-Islam Alhajj Ibrahim Niasse(RA)}

Interpreted from the Arabic by Imam Muhammad Abdullahi al-Tijani al-Ibrahimi

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LEVELS OF MEANING OF ‘LA ILAHA ILLA LLAH’

As I mentioned earlier in this sermon, “There is no god but Allah” has different levels of meaning. It has a shell, a core and the core of the core!

To the common believers, “La ilaha il Allah” means that there is none worthy of worship besides Allah (Laa Ma‘bud bi‘l Haqq Siwahu).

To those with a higher level of understanding, “La ilaha il Allah” means that there is no desired objective besides Allah (Laa Maqsud bi‘l Haqq il Allah).

To those with an even higher comprehension of “La ilaha il Allah” means that there is nothing in existence but Allah (Laa Mawjud bi‘l Haqq il Allah).

The 1st degree belongs to those who say “La ilaha il Huwa (There is no god but He)”.  

The 2nd degree belongs to those who say “La ilaha ila Anta (There is no god but You)”.  

The 3rd degree belongs to those who say “La ilaha il Ana (There is no god but I)”.  

As we stated before, the third degree is for those whose remembrance is “Allah!” “Allah!”
The remembrance of Allah is the Key to Sainthood (Miftah al-Wilaya), it is also the Beginning and End of Sainthood (Bidayat wa’l Nihayat al-Wilaya), and it is also the End and the Beginning of Sainthood.

If the beginning is sound, then the ending is also sound. We begin by saying “La ilaha il Allah” and then we move onto “La ilaha il Anta” and then we move onto “La ilaha il Ana”!

To Allah is the return! La ilaha il Allah!!

I am giving thanks and praises to Allah for the blessing of us having attained to love of each other for the sake of Allah, Glorious & Exalted is He! I am asking Allah to reward each of you with a great reward!

I am asking Him to increase your good, in both this life and the Hereafter!

I am asking Allah to increase all of you in wealth and in offspring, and to place tremendous Baraka in these blessings!

May Allah bless the land of Mauritania in general and to protect it from every evil, epidemic, plague and disease!
I ask that Allah make us to be included among the most distinguished companions of Shaykh Ahmad al-Tijani(RA)—in this life and in the Hereafter! He is Able to do this and this is not difficult for Him!

Oh Allah, send peace and blessings upon our master Muhammad, the Opener of what had been closed, the Seal of what had gone before; the Helper of the Truth by the Truth, and the Guide to Your Straight Path—may Allah's blessings be upon him and upon his Family, and may this prayer be according to his real grandeur and surely his position is extremely great!

As-Salaamu Alaykum wa Rahmatullah wa Baraktuh!

His Eminence Shaykh Ibrahim ibn AlHajj Abdullahi Niasse al-Tijani al-Kaolacky

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