

sacrifices in any name other than Allaah" [Muslim].

6 SWEARING OATHS ON ANYONE OTHER THAN ALLAAH:

Making a vow is an act of worship and making a vow to anyone other than Allaah is Shirk. Allaah said,

“And whatever you spend or make vows indeed Allaah knows of it and for the wrongdoers there are no helpers”. [Soorah Al-Baqarah 2:270]

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said *“Whoever vows to obey Allaah, should obey Him and whoever vows to disobey Him should not disobey Him.”* [Bukhaari].

7 BELIEVING IN SOOTHSAYERS & FORTUNE-TELLERS:

This is also a great sin and Shirk as it leads on from knowing the unseen. The Messenger of Allaah (peace be upon him) said

“Whoever visits a Fortune-teller or Soothsayer and believes in his words, has disbelieved in what was revealed to Muhammad (peace be upon him)” [Haakim].

8 SORCERY & MAGIC:

The practising of magic is considered rejection of faith as Allaah The Most High said, **“but the devils disbelieved, teaching men magic”** [Soorah Al-Baqarah 2:102]

The Messenger of Allaah (peace be upon him) said *“avoid the seven grave sins, associating partners with Allaah, Magic”* [Muslim].

So these are some of the practices which are Shirk or the root causes of Shirk and as Muslims we want to enter Paradise and never want to go to Hell hence we should immediately stop any form or practises of Shirk. If you have done such acts then make sincere repentance and never return to such actions and Allaah is the All-Forgiving.

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Shirk is the gravest sin and it means to set up rivals or partners equal to Allaah and to direct aspects of worship to them.

There is a common misconception amongst the people, that Shirk is only worshipping idols or statues and that some of the acts of worship that we perform do not constitute Shirk. Shirk includes a wide range of matters and as Muslims we need to know why Shirk is the greatest sin in the sight of Allah, how it is the greatest injustice and oppression mankind can commit and how to avoid falling into practices which constitute Shirk.

The most important thing to realise about Shirk is that its the only sin that if one dies upon, Allah will NEVER forgive **“Verily, Allaah does not forgive setting up partners in worship with him, but he forgives whom he pleases other than that and whoever sets up partners in worship with Allaah, has indeed strayed far away”**. [Soorah An-Nisa 4:116].

Allaah will never let anyone who commits Shirk to enter Paradise and rather his place will be the in the Hellfire forever. Allaah said, **“Verily whoever sets up partners in worship with Allaah, then Allaah has forbidden Paradise for him and the Fire will be his abode and for the Zalimun (polytheists/ wrongdoers) there are no helpers”**. [Soorah Al-Ma'idah 5:72].

The one who commits Shirk, Allaah will nulify all of his or her good deeds and disintegrate them, hence Allaah says, **“and we shall turn to whatever**

deeds they (those who commit Shirk) did and we shall make such deeds as scattered floating particles of dust”. [Soorah Al-Furqaan 25:23].

So with all of these warnings that Allah the Most High has warned us with, such as making the Hellfire the permanent, eternal abode of those who commit Shirk, nullifying all our good deeds and denying us paradise forever, it is imperative that we as Muslims are aware of those practices which constitute Shirk and the dire consequences of committing and dying upon the heinous crime of Shirk

PRACTICES WHICH ARE SHIRK AND ARE TO BE AVOIDED AT ALL COST

① SEEKING HELP FROM OTHER THAN ALLAAH:

We should only seek help from Allaah in good times and in times of difficulty, whether we seek a child or need to pass our exams, driving test or for better health, at the same time we should ask Allaah alone for help when we are ill or in bad health or if we receive any bad news. In our Salah (Prayer/Namaz) we say in every unit (Rakah)

“It is you we worship and you we ask for help”. [Soorah Al-Faatihah:5]

Allaah also said, **“Do not ask anything besides Allaah that which neither benefits you nor harms you. For if you did, then indeed you would be of the wrongdoers”.** [Soorah Yoonus 10:106]

The Messenger of Allaah (peace be upon him) said *“whoever died whilst calling upon other than Allaah will enter the Fire of Hell.”* [Bukhaari].

② SEEKING HELP FROM THE DEAD:

This is the same as calling upon others, so going to graves and supplicating to them thinking they are Intermediaries or Interceders is Shirk also as Allaah said,

“Verily, you cannot make the dead to hear”. [Soorah An-Naml 27:80]

and he also said **“But you cannot make hear those who are in the graves”.** [Soorah Al-Faatir 35:22].

The Messenger of Allaah (peace be upon him) NEVER in his whole life went to any grave or tomb or shrine and asked the dead people for help or for anything else, rather he said *“If you ask, then ask Allaah and if you seek help then seek help from Allaah”* [Tirmidhee].

③ THINKING AND BELIEVING THAT OTHERS BESIDE ALLAAH HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE UNSEEN:

Only Allaah the Exalted has the knowledge of the unseen . Some people think Prophets, righteous people, Holy people or Saints or Peers have knowledge of the unseen. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) only knew of things of the future and unseen which he was informed of by Allaah, as Allaah himself said,

“And with him are the keys of the unseen, no-one knows them except he”. [Soorah Al-Ana’am 6:59]

and The Prophet (peace be upon him) said *“no-one has knowledge of the unseen except Allaah”* [Tabaraanee].

④ WEARING TA’WEEZ (Amulets/Talismans):

Wearing Ta’weez i.e amulets as black square necklaces around the neck and arms is also a form of Shirk, they do not help us or solve our problems, do not be fooled by the people scaring you and saying Ta’weez will help.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said *“whoever wore a Ta’weez, Allaah will not fulfil his task/need”.* [Ahmad,Haakim]

⑤ SACRIFICING IN THE NAME OF ANYONE OTHER THAN ALLAAH:

Sacrificing in the name of anyone other than Allaah is Shirk, so for example sacrificing animals for people who are in the graves or for Holy people are all aspects of Shirk. Allaah said,

“So pray to your Lord and sacrifice to him alone”. [Soorah Al-Kauthar 108:2]

The Messenger of Allaah (peace be upon him) said *“Allaah curses whoever*