

Is the bow in karate an act of shirk?

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Shaykh Muhammad bin 'Abdullaah as-Subayyal (May Allaah have mercy on him)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: "I wanted to involve my son in a karate class but I notice that every time they get ready to engage one another in practice, they will make a slight bow, not enough to be considered Rukoo' or Sajdah, but a very slight front-bending of the waist. Dear Shaykh, allow us to benefit from the knowledge that Allaah has blessed you with. How do you see this matter – is this an act of shirk?"

Shaykh Muhammad bin 'Abdullaah as-Subayyal: "It is not permissible to bow to anyone other than Allaah (*The Exalted, The Most High*), even if it is just bending your head slightly, it is not permissible to direct these actions to other than Allaah, all of these particular acts, they are only supposed to be directed to Allaah (*The Exalted, The Most High*) alone. It is not permissible."