

Seeking the help of the Prophets and Aawliyyaa'

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Question: Two groups hold opposing views: the first group maintains that seeking help from Prophets and Aawliyyaa' (pious people) constitute Kufr (disbelief) and Shirk (associating others with Allaah in His Divinity or worship); they give evidence from the Qur'aan and Sunnah (whatever is reported from the Prophet) in support of their view. The second group maintains that seeking help from Prophets and Aawliyyaa' is permissible because they are the chosen, sincere Servants of Allaah (Exalted be He). Which of the two is correct?

Answer: Asking anyone other than Allaah for help, to bring healing, to make it rain, to prolong one's life, or similar requests that lie in the Power of Allaah Alone is a form of major Shirk (associating others with Allaah in His Divinity or worship that takes a Muslim out of Islam). Likewise, seeking help from the dead or absent beings at the time of Du'aa' (supplication), such as angels, Jinn or humans to bring about benefit or ward off harm, is an act of major Shirk. Allaah (Exalted be He) does not forgive these acts unless sincere Tawbah (repentance to Allaah) follows. Such forms of seeking help are in themselves acts of `Ibaadah (worship) and means of approach; thus, they are not permissible to be offered to anyone other than Allaah. Evidence in support of this ruling is the Ayah (Qur'aanic verse) in which Allaah (Exalted be He) teaches His Servants to say: **[You (Alone) we worship, and You (Alone) we ask for help (for each and everything).]** It means: "We worship and ask only You (Allaah)." Allaah (Exalted be He) also says: **[And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him.]** And: **[And they were commanded not, but that they should worship Allaah, and worship none but Him Alone (abstaining from ascribing partners to Him).]**

And: **[And the mosques are for Allaah (Alone): so invoke not anyone along with Allaah.]** It is authentically reported that the Prophet (عليه السلام)¹ said to `Abdullah ibn `Abbas (may Allaah be pleased with him and his father): **If you ask, ask Allaah; and if you seek help, seek it from Allaah.** Also, he (عليه السلام) said in the Hadeeth reported by Mu`adh: **The Right of Allaah due from His Servants is that they should worship Him Alone, not associating anything with Him.** And: **Anyone who dies while still invoking a rival (in worship or divinity) to Allaah will enter Hellfire.** Seeking help from anyone other than Allaah is Shirk unless the help needed is within the

¹ (عليه السلام) ('alaihi-salaam) Peace be upon him

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scope of ordinary human ability which Allaah (Exalted be He) has provided mankind with and enabled them to use, such as seeking help from a doctor to treat a sick person, or from people to feed the hungry, provide water to the thirsty, or give money to the poor, etc. These and similar acts are not Shirk; rather, cooperation among people in life and livelihood. Likewise, it is permissible to seek help from living people who are not present at the same place via material methods like posting, wiring, phone calls and so on.

As for the life of Prophets, martyrs and Aawliyaa', they have a special life in the Barzakh (period between death and the Resurrection) whose reality is known to none but Allaah. It differs from worldly life. This shows that the view held by the first group is the correct one, namely, those who say that seeking help from anyone other than Allaah is Shirk.

May Allaah grant us success. May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions.

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