

Undesirability of making vows

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Question: Some people vow to give Sadaqah (voluntary charity) or offer a sacrifice to attain what they want; some in hope of recovery, others of restoring a lost right, and so on. Some devote their vows to Allaah sincerely or for the sake of Allaah's Love, others offer the vow to other people. Please, advise me on this matter and clarify the correct way of offering a vow. May Allaah admit you to the best of life and Hereafter.

Answer: Firstly: Vowing is an undesirable act for a Muslim, for it is authentically reported that the Prophet (عليه السلام)¹ said: A vow is not a means of bringing good but a means to extract good from the miserly people. But in case that someone makes a vow to do some obedience to Allaah, they should fulfil it, as the Prophet (عليه السلام) said: **Whoever vows that he will be obedient to Allaah, should remain obedient to Him; and whoever makes a vow that he will disobey Allaah, should not disobey Him.**²

Secondly: Offering vows to anyone other than Allaah is Shirk-Akbar (major form of associating others in worship with Allaah), for it is an act of `Ibaadah (worship) and offering `Ibaadah to anyone other than Allaah is Shirk (associating others with Allaah in His Divinity or worship).

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

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

² Related by Al-Bukhaaree and Muslim