

The first question of Fatwa no. 19595

Q 1: According to our marriage customs, when a bride moves from the house of her family to her husband's, a sheep or goat is slaughtered when she takes the first step into the house. What is the ruling on this act? Answer me, may Allah reward you best.

A: It is a forbidden custom to slaughter an animal for the bride when first entering her husband's house, in order to please the Jinn (creatures created from fire) and because of believing that distress will befall the family in case they do not offer this sacrifice. In fact, this act entails major Shirk (associating others with Allah in His Divinity or worship), because it is dedicated to other than Allah. Slaughtering is an act of `Ibadah (worship) that must be dedicated to Allah Alone and a means for drawing closer to Him (Exalted be He). Consequently, whoever offers it to other than Allah commits an act of major Shirk. Allah (Exalted be He) says:

Say (O Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم): "Verily, my Salât (prayer), my sacrifice, my living, and my dying are for Allâh, the Lord of the `Alamîn (mankind, jinn and all that exists).

"He has no partner. And of this I have been commanded, and I am the first of the Muslims."

Also, the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) has cursed whoever offers slaughtered animals to other than Allah, by saying:

"Allah has cursed the one who slaughters (a sacrifice) for other than Allah." (Related by Imam Muslim in his Sahih [authentic] Book of Hadith)

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

The Permanent Committee for Scholarly Research and Ifta'

Member	Member	Deputy Chairman	Chairman
Bakr ibn `Abdullah Abu Zayd	Salih ibn Fawzan Al-Fawzan	`Abdul-`Aziz ibn `Abdullah Al-Shaykh	`Abdul-`Aziz ibn `Abdullah ibn Baz