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Abstaining from performance of the practical Pillars of Islam is Riddah

The First Question from Fatwa no. 1727

Q1: If someone testifies that there is no deity but Allah and that Muhammad is His Messenger, but does not observe the four Pillars of Islam, i.e. Salah (Prayer), Zakah (obligatory charity), Sawm (Fasting) and Hajj, and they do not observe other acts prescribed by the Islamic Shari`ah, do they deserve the intercession of the Prophet (peace be upon him) on the Day of Resurrection to avoid being thrown into the Fire, even for a limited time?

A: Anyone who bears witness that there is no deity but Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah, but abstains from performing Salah, Zakah, Sawm, and Hajj, denying the obligation of these four Pillars, or any one of them, after being told about them, is regarded as a Murtad (apostate) from Islam. They should be asked to perform Tawbah (repentance to Allah), and if they perform Tawbah, it will be accepted. They will then be among those receiving the intercession of the Prophet on the Day of Resurrection, if they die as a believer. If they insist on denying the Pillars, the ruler should execute them due to their Kufr (disbelief) and Riddah (apostasy), and neither the Prophet nor any other will intercede for them on the Day of Resurrection. However, if someone abstains from Salah due to laziness and indifference, they are a Kafir (disbeliever) and their Kufr (disbelief) takes them out of Islam, according to the most correct opinion of the scholars. This ruling will therefore apply even more if someone also abstains from the other Pillars of Islam, such as Zakah, Sawm, and Hajj to the House of Allah. They will also not be among those receiving the intercession of the Prophet (peace be upon him) or any one else if they die in this state. There are some scholars, however, who do not think that someone has left Islam if they abstain from

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performing the practical Pillars. They hold the view that such a person will receive intercession, even if they commit a major sin, providing that they die as a believer.

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

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