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### Are Muslims to be excused for ignorantly performing acts of Kufr and Shirk?

The first question of Fatwa No. 9257

**Q 1: Is the person who ignorantly commits any act of Kufr (disbelief) or Shirk (associating others in worship with Allah) considered a Kafir (disbeliever)? Can they be excused because of their ignorance? Please, provide us with evidence.**

**A 1:** A Mukallaf (person meeting the conditions to be held legally accountable for their actions) is not excused for worshipping, offering sacrifices, vows, or any of the acts of worship performed for Allah, to other than Him. If someone lives in a non-Muslim country and the Da`wah (call to Islam) has not reached them, they are excused because it has not reached them and not because of their ignorance. Imam Muslim related on the authority of Abu Hurairah that the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) stated, ( By Him in Whose Hand is the soul of Muhammad, any Jew or Christian amongst this community who hears about me, but does not affirm his belief in that with which I have been sent and dies in this state (of disbelief), he shall be but one of the inhabitants of Hellfire. )

Thus, the Prophet (peace be upon him) did not excuse those who had heard of his teaching. Therefore, whoever lives in an Islamic country and hears of the Messenger (peace be upon him), is not excused due ignorance of the principles of Iman (Faith).

Those who asked the Prophet (peace be upon him) to make for them Dhat Anwat (A tree on which the disbelievers used to hang their weapons and to which they would go and spend time to seek blessings)

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to hang their arms upon, were new in Islam. They only asked the Prophet, but did not make one. Their request was against the Shari`ah. That is why the Prophet (peace be upon him) explained to them that if they had made Dhat Anwat they would become disbelievers.

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

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