



The third question of Fatwa No. 7308:

Q 3: Sufis claim that their seeking help from and calling upon pious people is metaphorical, and that in reality, Allah (may He be Glorified and Exalted) is the One from Whom they are seeking aid. How should we answer them considering that they support their practice by citing the Ayah (Verse): ﴿ You killed them not, but Allâh killed them. And you (Muhammad peace be upon him) threw not when you did throw, but Allâh threw ... ﴾ How do you refute this claim?

A: Firstly, Seeking help from and calling upon others besides Allah,

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(such as idols, or those who are not present, etc.) is a form of Shirk (associating others in worship with Allah). Similarly, seeking help from or calling upon living people for help in matters that cannot be helped by anyone other than Allah is also a form of major Shirk which takes them outside of the folds of Islam.

Secondly, it is incorrect to use the Ayah: ﴿ You killed them not, but Allâh killed them. And you [Muhammad, peace be upon him] threw not when you did throw, but it was Allâh Who threw ... ﴾ to try to prove that it is Islamically acceptable to seek help or call upon others besides Allah. The correct interpretation of this Ayah is as follows: During the Battle of Badr, it was not you [Muhammad] who made the handful of dust that you threw reach the eyes of the enemy, but it was Allah, with His Power, Who made it reach them and afflict their eyes. There is nothing in this Ayah that supports seeking help from others besides Allah. On the contrary, it indicates that a person should avail himself of the means to reach his goal, no matter how weak they might seem, which was represented in this case by throwing the dust while begging Allah to aid them and protect them. By Allah's Bounty and Power, the effect of this action was great. It is important to note that when the Prophet (peace be upon him) threw the dust, he invoked Allah Alone for victory over his enemies; not the pious people.

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

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