



Fatwa no. 4144

Q: Can someone who worships or supplicates to other than Allah or offers a sacrificial animal for a shaykh, such as happens in Egypt, be excused for being ignorant or not? If they cannot be excused for being ignorant, how do you explain the story of Dhat Anwat? Please advise us and may Allah reward you.

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A: A Mukallaf (person meeting the conditions to be held legally accountable for their actions) cannot be excused for worshipping other than Allah, offering sacrifices in order to get closer to other than Allah, vowing by other than Allah, or other acts of worship that should be devoted to Allah. They may only be excused if they live in a non-Muslim country and Islamic Da`wah (call to Islam) has not yet reached them. In such a case, they can be excused for not being informed and not just for being ignorant. This is supported by a Hadith recorded by Muslim on the authority of Abu Hurayrah, who said that the Messenger of Allah (may peace be upon him) said, ("By Him in Whose Hand the soul of Muhammad is, any Jew or Christian from this nation who hears about me, and then dies without believing in that with which I have been sent, will be an inhabitant of the Fire.") Therefore, the Prophet (peace be upon him) did not excuse anyone who lived in a Muslim country and had heard about him. If anyone has heard about the Prophet (peace be upon him), they cannot be excused for not knowing about the fundamentals of Iman (Faith) due to ignorance.

As for the story of those who asked the Prophet (peace be upon him) to make a Dhat Anwat (lote-tree) for them to hang their weapons on, those people had newly accepted Islam and they only requested this, but did not act on it. What they were requesting contradicted the Shari`ah (Islamic law) and, as it was denied by the Prophet (peace be upon him), they did not do it.

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

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