



First question from Fatwa No. (6310) :

Q 1: An illiterate man who testifies that, "La ilaha illa Allah, Muhammad Rasulullah (There is no diety but Allah and Muhammad (peace be upon him) is His Messenger)" but makes Tawassul (supplicating to Allah through a means) by anyone other than Allah saying, "O Badawi, O Hussayn, help me". He also offers vows to people other than Allah (may He be Glorified and Exalted) and seeks blessings by touching the graves. He commits Al-Shirk-ul-Akbar (major form of associating others in worship with Allah) not Al-Shirk-ul-Asghar (minor form of associating others in worship with Allah). Is it permissible to call him a disbeliever or he is only ignorant of Tawhid (belief in the Oneness of Allah/ monotheism) and should not be accused of disbelief? Is it permissible to pray behind him, marry him, and eat from his sacrificed animals for he mentions the Name of Allah on it? We would like Your Eminence to reply, may Allah grant you success!

A: Supplicating to anyone other than Allah is and act of Al-Shirk-ul-Akbar. Allah (Exalted be He) says: ﴿ And whoever invokes (or worships), besides Allah, any other ilah (god), of whom he has no proof; then his reckoning is only with his Lord. Surely! Al-Kafirun (the disbelievers in Allah and in the Oneness of Allah, polytheists, pagans, idolaters) will not be successful. ﴾ He (may He be Exalted) says: ﴿ And invoke not besides Allah any such that will neither profit you nor harm you, but if (in case) you did so, you shall certainly be one of the Zalimun (polytheists and wrong-doers). ﴾

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Tawassul may be an act of Shirk, a prohibited act or an act of Bid`ah (rejected innovation in religion); all of these are forbidden. Seeking blessings by touching the graves is also prohibited and an act of Shirk. Whoever commits an act of Shirk, the ruling should be made clear to him supported by evidence. If he makes tawbah (repentance to Allah), so praise be to Allah. If he insisted on this, then he is rendered a disbeliever and it is not permissible to pray behind him, marry him, or eat from his sacrificed animals even if he mentions the Name of Allah on it.

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

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