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The first question from Fatwa No. 2251 :

Q: There are two groups; a group maintains that seeking the help of prophets and Awliya' (pious people) is Kufr (disbelief) and Shirk (associating others in worship with Allah); they cite evidences from the Qur'an and Sunnah in support of their view. The other group maintains that seeking help from prophets and Awliya' (pious people) is permissible, because they are the chosen and sincere servants of Allah (may He be Exalted). What is the correct view of these two opinions?

A: Beseeching anyone other than Allah for help; for recovery of a sickness, to make it rain, prolong someone's life, or the like needs that are confined to the power of Allah Alone (may He be Exalted) is a kind of Shirk-Akbar (major form of associating others in worship with Allah). It drives the person out of Islam. Likewise, seeking help from the dead or absent beings at the time of supplication like angels, Jinn, or human to bring benefit or ward off harm, is an act of unforgivable Shirk-Akbar (major form of associating others in worship with Allah). Allah does not forgive these acts unless sincere repentance follows. This form of seeking help is an act of worship that is not permissible to offer to anyone other than Allah. One of the evidences in support of this ruling is the following Ayah (Qur'anic verses) Allah teaches His servants to say: ﴿ You (Alone) we worship, and You (Alone) we ask for help (for each and everything). ﴾ It means, 'We worship Allah Alone and seek help from Him Alone.' Allah (may He be Exalted) says: ﴿ And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him. ﴾ and: ﴿ And they were commanded not, but that they should worship Allâh, and worship none but Him Alone (abstaining from ascribing partners to Him)... ﴾

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Likewise, Allah (may He be Exalted) says: ﴿ And the mosques are for Allâh (Alone); so invoke not anyone along with Allâh. ﴾ It is also reported that he (peace be upon him) said to Abdullah ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with them): ﴿ If you beg, beg of Allah Alone; and if you need assistance, supplicate to Allah Alone for help. ﴾ He (peace be upon him) said also in the Hadith reported by

Mu`adh : (The right of Allah over His servants is that they should worship Him, not associating anything with Him.) Also he (peace be upon him) said: ("Whoever dies while still invoking a rival (in worship) to Allah, will enter Hell (Fire).") Seeking help from anyone other than Allah is Shirk (associating others in worship with Allah) unless this help is within the scope of man's ordinary abilities which Allah has blessed him with and enables him to use like seeking help from a doctor to cure a sick a person, or from a rich person to feed a hungry person, provide water to a thirsty person, or give money to a poor person, etc. These and similar acts are not Shirk, but an aspect of cooperation among people to gain the means of living. Likewise, it is permissible to seek help from living people who are not present at the same place via material methods like posting, wiring, phone calls, etc.

As for the life of prophets, martyrs, and the Awliya' (pious people), it is a special life of Barzakh (period between death and the Resurrection)

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whose reality is known to none but Allah. It differs from worldly life. This shows that the view held by the first group is the correct one, namely, those who say that seeking help from anyone other than Allah is Shirk (associating others in worship with Allah).

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

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