



Fatwa no. (9260):

Q: There has been much controversy among the Islamic groups in Egypt about one of the issues of Iman (Faith), which is the ruling on violating the Islamic `Aqidah (creed) out of ignorance and abandoning part of the Shari'ah. It ended up to creating hostility among the Muslims; debates and research was made by both parties, those who excuse due to ignorance and those who do not. Some of them say that people can be excused in the branches of faith, but not regarding its fundamentals; others say that people may be excused in both branches and fundamentals of faith; whereas others say that the evidence is already established. Those who excuse others due to ignorance call the people to Islam and do not judge them as Kafirun (disbelievers) until Da'wah (calling to Islam) reaches them. If they refuse this Da'wah, they are considered Kafirun. On the other hand, those who do not excuse others judge them as Kafirun for committing acts of Kufr (disbelief), and because they provide evidence for their deeds. I am confused between

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both parties, which one should I follow? Each one of them accuses the other of committing a Bid'ah (rejected innovation in religion) and each party thinks they are right and the other is wrong. I have no idea who is right and who is wrong. This problem has spread among the Muslims as a result of disagreement on this issue. Who is right and who is wrong? I want to follow the right party who follow the way of the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) and his Sahabah (Companions, may Allah be pleased with them all).

A: A Mukallaf (legally competent person) is not excused if they worship, offer sacrificial animals, or make vows to other than Allah, and such forms of 'Ibadah (worship) which should be dedicated exclusively to Allah, except if they live in a non-Islamic country and Da'wah has not reached them. In this case, they are excused for not having been informed and not due to ignorance. Muslim narrated from Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him), from the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) that he stated, **(By Him in Whose hand the soul of Muhammad is, any Jew or Christian amongst this Ummah (nation) 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 one of the inhabitants of Hellfire.)** The Prophet (peace be upon him) did not excuse those who heard about him and who lived in Islamic countries. Thus, they are not excused for their ignorance.

As for those who asked the Prophet (peace be upon him) to make for them Dhat Anwat (a tree which the disbelievers used to seek blessing from) to hang their weapons on, they had just recently embraced Islam and they merely asked but did not act upon it. What they asked for was contrary to Shari'ah, and the Prophet (peace be upon him) informed them

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that if they had done what they asked for, it would have been an act of Kufr.

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

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