

Islaam destroys whatever (sins) came before it

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allaah the most Kind the most Merciful

Islaam destroys whatever (sins) came before it, and repentance erases what came before it.

First treatise:

All praise be to Allaah and peace and blessings be upon the Messenger of Allaah, and upon his family, Companions, and those who follow his guidance. The Kuwaiti newspaper "Al-Mujtama", issue no. 15, dated 19/4/1390 A.H., published some poetic verses under the heading "Mawlid (the Prophet's birthday)" that invoke the help of Prophet Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)¹ and ask his support to save the Muslim Ummah (nation based on one creed), give it victory and free it from disunity and differences. The verses were written by a woman calling herself Aminah. The following is the text of the verses:

O Messenger of Allaah! Save the world
that wages wars and is burning in the flames
O Messenger of Allaah! Save the Ummah
that in the darkness of doubt has walked long
O Messenger of Allaah! Save the Ummah
that in the labyrinths of grief has lost its sight

Until the verses in which she said:

O Messenger of Allaah! Save the Ummah
that in the darkness of doubt has walked long
Hasten victory for us as you did
on the day of Badr, when you called to Allaah,
So servility turned into splendid victory
truly, Allaah has unseen soldiers

¹ (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

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Allaah is the Greatest! This is how this writer appeals to the Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) for help and support, asking him to save the Muslim Ummah by hastening victory. She forgets or is ignorant of the fact that victory is in Allaah's Hand Alone, and does not come from the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) or any other creature. Allaah (سبحانه)² says in the Qur'aan: **[And there is no victory except from Allaah, the All-Mighty, the All-Wise.]** Allaah (سبحانه) also says: **[If Allaah helps you, none can overcome you; and if He forsakes you, who is there after Him that can help you?]**

It is known from the Naas (Islaamic text from the Qur'aan or the Sunnah) and Ijmaa' (consensus of scholars) that Allaah (سبحانه) created the creation to worship Him Alone, and He sent Messengers and revealed His Books to explain this worship and call people to it. Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[And I (Allaah) created not the jinn and mankind except that they should worship Me (Alone).]** He (سبحانه) also says: **[And verily, We have sent among every Ummah (community, nation) a Messenger (proclaiming): "Worship Allaah (Alone), and avoid (or keep away from) Taaghoot (all false deities i.e. do not worship Taaghoot besides Allaah)."]** And: **[And We did not send any Messenger before you (O Muhammad صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) but We revealed to him (saying): Laa ilaaha illa Ana [none has the right to be worshipped but I (Allaah)], so worship Me (Alone and none else)."]** He (عزوجل)³ also says: **[Alif-Laam-Raa. [These letters are one of the miracles of the Qur'aan and none but Allaah (Alone) knows their meanings]. (This is) a Book, the Verses whereof are perfected (in every sphere of knowledge), and then explained in detail from One (Allaah) Who is All-Wise Well-Acquainted (with all things). (Saying) worship none but Allaah. Verily, I (Muhammad صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) am unto you from Him a warner and a bringer of glad tidings.]**

In these clear-cut Ayahs (Qur'aanic verses), Allaah (سبحانه) clarifies that He created humans and Jinn (creatures made from fire) for the sole purpose of worshipping Him Alone without Shirk (associating others with Allaah in His Divinity or worship). He (سبحانه) explains that He sent Messengers (عليهم السلام)⁴ to enjoin people to abide by this `Ibaadah (worship) and prohibit any antithesis to it. Allaah (سبحانه) states that He has perfected the Ayahs in His Book and explained them in detail, so that no other than Him is worshipped (سبحانه). `Ibaadah is to believe in and obey Allaah, by fulfilling His Commands and avoiding His Prohibitions. Allaah (سبحانه) commands us to worship and obey Him in many Ayahs, such as His Saying: **[And they were commanded not, but that they should worship Allaah, and worship none but Him Alone (abstaining from ascribing partners to Him) He (سبحانه) also says: And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him.]**

² (سبحانه) (Subhanahu) Exalted be He

³ (عزوجل) (Azza wa Jaal) Glorified and Exalted be He

⁴ (عليهم السلام) Peace be upon them

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Allaah (سبحانه) also says: **[So worship Allaah (Alone) by doing religious deeds sincerely for Allaah's sake only. Surely the religion (i.e. the worship and the obedience) is for Allaah only.]** There are many other Ayahs bearing the same meaning. They all assert the obligation of sincerely worshipping Allaah Alone and shunning the worship of any others, whether the prophets or any creature whatsoever. There is no doubt that Du'aa' (supplication) is one of the most important and comprehensive forms of `Ibaadah, which dictates that it be made purely to Allaah Alone, as Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[So, call you (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) and the believers) upon (or invoke) Allaah making (your) worship pure for Him (Alone) (by worshipping none but Him and by doing religious deeds sincerely for Allaah's sake only and not to show off and not to set up rivals with Him in worship), however much the disbelievers (in the Oneness of Allaah) may hate (it).]** He (عزوجل) also says: **[And the mosques are for Allaah (Alone): so invoke not anyone along with Allaah.]** This includes all creatures, prophets and others.

The prohibition covers anything or anyone other than Allaah. Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[And invoke not besides Allaah any such that will neither profit you nor harm you.]** These words are addressed to the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), but it is well and fully known that Allaah (سبحانه) protected him from Shirk; therefore, the purpose is to give this warning to other people. Allaah (عزوجل) says: **[...but if (in case) you did so, you shall certainly be one of the Zaalimoon (polytheists and wrong-doers).]** If the best of Aadam's children, Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), were to supplicate to other than Allaah, he would have been one of the wrongdoers, this most certainly applies to others. When the word "wrongdoing" is used in the absolute sense, it means major Shirk (associating others with Allaah in His Divinity or worship that takes the Muslim out of Islaam), as Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[And it is the disbelievers who are the Zaalimoon (wrong-doers).]** He (سبحانه) also says: **[...Verily joining others in worship with Allaah is a great dhulm (wrong) indeed.]**

It can be understood from these Ayahs and others that supplicating to other than Allaah, such as to the dead, trees, idols, and others, is Shirk that contradicts the `Ibaadah for which Allaah created humans and Jinn, sent Messengers and revealed Books in order to explain it to the people and call them to it. This is the meaning of "La ilaha illaallaah (there is none worthy of worship but Allaah alone without any partners)." It means that none whatsoever deserves to be worshipped except Allaah. It negates worship of other than Allaah, and affirms that `Ibaadah is the Exclusive Right of Allaah (سبحانه) Alone. Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[That is because Allaah — He is the Truth (the only True God of all that exists, Who has no partners or rivals with Him), and what they (the polytheists) invoke besides Him, it is Baatil (falsehood).]**

This is the essence and foundation of our Deen (religion), and as such, any form of `Ibaadah is not valid unless this foundation is valid. This is because Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[And indeed it has been revealed to you (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)), as it was to those (Allaah's**

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Messengers) before you: "If you join others in worship with Allaah, (then) surely (all) your deeds will be in vain, and you will certainly be among the losers."] Allaah (سبحانه) also says: [But if they had joined in worship others with Allaah, all that they used to do would have been of no benefit to them.]

The religion of Islaam is built on two great principles:

First: None should be worshipped except Allaah Alone.

Second: Allaah should only be worshipped according to the Sharee'ah (Islaamic law) with which His Prophet and Messenger Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) was sent. This is the meaning of the Shahahdah (Testimony of Faith) "La ilaha illa Allaah (there is none worthy of worship but Allaah alone without any partners)." Therefore, anyone who calls upon the dead prophets or other righteous people, idols, trees, stones, or any other creatures, or appeals to any of them for support, or tries to get close to them by offering sacrifices, making vows, prays or prostrates to them, has taken them as their lords instead of Allaah and made them equal to Him (سبحانه). This is certainly a breach of this principle. It negates the meaning of "La ilaha illa Allaah." Also, anyone who introduces a new practice in religion, which is not sanctioned by Allaah, has not realised the meaning of the Shahahdah that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah. Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[And We shall turn to whatever deeds they (disbelievers, polytheists, sinners) did, and We shall make such deeds as scattered floating particles of dust.]** Such are the deeds of those who die as Mushriks (those who associate others with Allaah in His Divinity or worship) and those who practice Bid'ah. On the Day of Resurrection these deeds will be like scattered dust, as they are not in accordance with Allaah's Purified Law. The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **[Anyone who introduces something in this matter of ours (Islaam) that is not from it will have it rejected.]**⁵ This writer has addressed her invocation for help and support to the Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) and turned away from Allaah, the Lord of the worlds, in Whose Hand is support, harm and benefit. No one other than Him has control over these things.

There is no doubt that this is a great error. Allaah (عزوجل) has enjoined on us to supplicate to Him and He (سبحانه) promises whoever supplicates to Him that He will respond to them. He also warns those who are too proud to do so that they will be cast into Hell. Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[And your Lord said: "Invoke Me, I will respond to your (invocation). Verily! Those who scorn My worship [i.e. do not invoke Me, and do not believe in My Oneness, (Islaamic Monotheism)] they will surely enter Hell in humiliation!"]**

This Ayah is evidence that Du'aa' is `Ibaadah and that anyone who feels too proud to ask Allaah for help will be cast into Hell. If this is the end of those who are too proud to make Du'aa' to Allaah, what will be the end of those who make Du'aa' to other than Allaah or shun Him? Allaah (سبحانه) is Ever Near and Responsive. He is the absolute Owner of all things,

⁵ Agreed upon by al-Bukhaaree and Muslim

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and the One Who is able to do all things. Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[And when My slaves ask you (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)) concerning Me, then (answer them), I am indeed near (to them by My Knowledge). I respond to the invocations of the supplicant when he calls on Me (without any mediator or intercessor). So let them obey Me and believe in Me, so that they may be led aright.]** In a Saheeh (authentic) Hadeeth, the Messenger of Allaah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) informed us that Du'aa' is `Ibaadah. He (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) advised his cousin, `Abdullah ibn `Abbas (رضي الله عنهما)⁶ saying to him: **[Guard (the Commands and Prohibitions of) Allaah, Allaah shall guard you. Guard (the Rights of) Allaah, you shall find Him in front of you. If you ask, ask Allaah; and if you seek help, seek it from Allaah.]**⁷

He (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) also said: **[Anyone who dies calling on (invoking) a partner (in worship) besides Allaah will enter Hellfire.]**⁸ Also, in the two Saheeh (authentic) books of Hadeeth⁹: It was authentically reported that the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) was asked which sin was the gravest. He (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) replied, **['That you associate a partner with Allaah, while it is He Who created you.']** So, anyone who makes Du'aa' to other than Allaah, invokes their help, vows to them, offers a sacrifice or any other form of `Ibaadah for them, has associated a partner with Allaah, whether that partner is a prophet, a Walee (pious person), an angel, a Jinn, an idol, or any other creature.

As for asking a person who is alive and present to do physical things that they are able to do, this is not Shirk. This is an ordinary thing that is permissible among Muslims. When relating the story of Moosa (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ), Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[The man of his (own) party asked him for help against his foe]** He (سبحانه) also says regarding the story of Moosa: **[So he escaped from there, looking about in a state of fear.]** People seek help from one another in battles and other matters that they face when they need to do so.

Allaah (سبحانه) ordered his Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) to inform his Ummah that he possessed no power to benefit or harm anyone. Allaah (سبحانه) says in Soorah al-Jinn: **[Say (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)): "I invoke only my Lord (Allaah Alone), and I associate none as partners along with Him." Say: "It is not in my power to cause you harm, or to bring you to the Right Path."]** Allaah (سبحانه) also says in Soorah al-A'raaf: **[Say (O Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)): "I possess no power over benefit or harm to myself except as Allaah wills. If I had the knowledge of the Ghaib (Unseen), I should have secured for myself an abundance of wealth, and no evil should have touched me. I am but a warner, and a bringer of glad tidings unto people who believe."]**

There are many Ayahs which have the same meaning. The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) never supplicated to anyone except his Lord. On the day of Badr, he (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) insistently

⁶ May Allaah the Most High be please with them both (him and his father)

⁷ Related by al-Tirmidhee and others

⁸ Related by al-Bukhaaree

⁹ i.e. al-Bukhaaree and Muslim

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sought help from Allaah and asked Him for support over his enemy, saying: **['O Allaah! Fulfil for me what You have promised me.']** Until the greatest Siddeeq, Aboo Bakr (رضي الله عنه)¹⁰ said, 'O Prophet of Allaah! Enough beseeching your Lord, He shall certainly fulfil for you what He has promised you.' Allaah revealed on this occasion His Saying: **[(Remember) when you sought help of your Lord and He answered you (saying): "I will help you with a thousand of the angels each behind the other (following one another) in succession." Allaah made it only as glad tidings, and that your hearts be at rest therewith. And there is no victory except from Allaah. Verily, Allaah is All-Mighty, All-Wise.]** In these Ayahs Allaah (سبحانه) reminded Muslims of their seeking help from Him. He (سبحانه) informed them that He responded to them by sending them angels. He then explained that the victory was not from the angels, but they were sent to them to give them the good news of victory and to reassure them.

Allaah explains that victory is given by Him in His Saying: **[And there is no victory except from Allaah.]** He (عز وجل) also says in Soorah al-`Imraan: **[And Allaah has already made you victorious at Badr, when you were a weak little force. So fear Allaah much that you may be grateful.]** This Ayah shows that it is Allaah (سبحانه) who made Muslims victorious at Badr. So the Muslims knew that the strength and the angels that Allaah provided them with at Badr were only means to the victory, which gave them reassurance and signs of success, but the victory did not come from these means. The victory came from Allaah Alone. How can then this writer or any other writer seek help from the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) or appeal to him for support and turn away from Allaah, the Lord of the worlds, the Owner of all things, and the One Who is able to do all things?

There is no doubt that this is offensive ignorance and a great Shirk. It is obligatory on the writer to make sincere Tawbah (repentance to Allaah), regret what she did, abstain from such writing, and firmly resolve not to write such things again. This should be done out of glorifying Allaah, submitting to His Ordinances, and avoiding His Prohibitions. This is the sincere Tawbah. If the right of a human being has been violated, it is also obligatory when performing Tawbah to fulfil a fourth condition, which is that the right should be returned to its owner or the aggrieved person be asked to pardon the wrongdoer. Allaah (سبحانه) commands His servants to repent and promises to accept sincere Tawbah, saying: **[And all of you beg Allaah to forgive you all, O believers, that you may be successful]** He (سبحانه) says about the Christians: **[Will they not turn with repentance to Allaah and ask His Forgiveness? For Allaah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.]** He (سبحانه) also says: **[And those who invoke not any other ilaah (god) along with Allaah, nor kill such person as Allaah has forbidden, except for just cause, nor commit illegal sexual intercourse - and whoever does this shall receive the punishment. The torment will be doubled to him on the Day of Resurrection, and he will abide therein in disgrace; except those who repent and believe (in Islaamic Monotheism), and do righteous deeds; for those, Allaah will change their sins**

¹⁰ (رضي الله عنه) (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with him

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into good deeds, and Allaah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.] And: [And He it is Who accepts repentance from His slaves, and forgives sins, and He knows what you do.]

It was authentically reported that the Messenger of Allaah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **[Islaam destroys whatever (sins) came before it, and repentance erases what came before it.]** I have written this synopsis motivated by the grave danger of Shirk, for being one of the major sins. I feared lest people might be misled by what this writer has published. I also wanted to fulfil the obligation of giving advice to people for Allaah's Sake. I ask Allaah (سبحانه) to make it beneficial and set right our affairs and those of all Muslims and to grant us understanding of our Deen and make us firm on it. We beg Him to protect us and the Muslims from the evil of our souls and the wickedness of our deeds. Indeed, He is the Patron, Capable of all things. May peace and blessings be upon Allaah's Servant and Messenger, our Prophet Muhammad, and upon his family and Companions.