

Nullifier of Islam 1: Shirk

Based on the works of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan (حفظه الله)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

QUESTION: Are there things that may cancel out the testimony of faith that a person makes?

ANSWER:

Islam teaches that there are several matters which can nullify the testimony of faith – so that a Muslim needs to be very careful not to fall into them.

It is beneficial to spend a little time discussing them since it will hopefully highlight the importance that Islam attaches to them.

Why is this? Well, in a famous line of Arabic poetry it is stated:

'Through knowing about the opposites (of some matters) do the matters (themselves) become clear.'

Learning about what can negate the core beliefs of Islam will help us to understand those core beliefs.

The first of these nullifiers is to associate partners in worship with Allaah – in Arabic, this is known as shirk.¹

Many verses of the Qur'aan make this clear:

'Indeed Allaah does not forgive that partners be ascribed to Him – but He may forgive less than that to whomsoever He wishes.'

[Soorah An Nisa (the 4th chapter) verse 48]

Islam teaches that Allaah is merciful and that He may choose to overlook some of the sins, such as theft or taking intoxicants - providing that the person did not fall into shirk.

But were a person to commit shirk and then die upon it, without repenting from it, then Islam teaches that such a sin will not be forgiven.

¹ Refer to 'Aqeedah ut Tawheed p58 of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan for more information

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Sadly this error of shirk is an error that many Muslims fall into, often out of ignorance.

It is not difficult to find Muslims in many countries calling upon dead people or sacrificing for them or taking oaths by them – with the claim that:

‘We only worship them so that they will bring us closer to Allaah....’

[Soorah az Zumar (the 39th chapter) verse 3]

Here is the key point: that Islam does not allow the worship of anyone/anything other than Allaah – regardless of whatever justification the person gives for doing so.