



The first question of Fatwa No. 4461

Q1: Some scholars say: "The mushrik (one who associates others with Allah in worship) of this Ummah (nation) should be similar in status to the People of the Scripture with regard to the permissibility of eating the animals they have slaughtered and marrying their women because the Book of the Jews is the Tawrah (Torah) and their prophet is Musa (Moses) even if they are liars.

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Likewise, the Christians. Their Book is the Injil (Gospels) and their prophet is 'Isa (Jesus) even if they are liars. These people claim to be the followers of their prophets but they have abandoned their religions. This is similar to the Mushrikun (those who associate others with Allah in worship) of this Ummah. They claim that their Book is the Qur'an and that their Prophet is Muhammad (peace be upon him). Therefore, it is permissible to marry their women and to eat the animals they slaughter just as it is permissible with the People of the Scripture.

A: He who believes in Muhammad (peace be upon him) then associates others in worship with Allah through prostrating, vowing or slaughtering for any one other than Allah is not similar to the People of the Scripture. He is an apostate who should be asked to repent for three days after pointing out the truth to him. If he does not repent, he should be killed. His property will go to Bayt-ul-Mal (Muslim treasury) and not to his Muslim inheritors. It is not permissible for this person to marry a Muslim woman and the animals slaughtered by this person are unlawful for Muslims. Moreover, the marriage contract of this person to a Muslim woman should be annulled. The matter is different with regard to disbelievers from among the People of the Scripture. They inherit from each other and their marriage is valid. The animals they slaughter are lawful and they are to be invited to accept Islam. If they do not accept Islam, they have to pay Jizyah (poll tax required from non-Muslims living in an Islamic state). They should not be killed due to their disbelief.

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

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